

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT GLENN D. HICKS, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

SGT Glenn D. Hicks, Jr., was a proud U.S. Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on April 28, 2007, during combat operations in Salman Park, Iraq.

Assigned to the Third Infantry Division, Glenn enlisted during a time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Moreover, he was a leader and mentor to younger soldiers and his service as a sergeant—the backbone of the Army, exemplifies that spirit.

Sergeant Hicks is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn D. Hicks, Sr., three brothers and his grandparents.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all of Glenn's family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Sergeant Hicks' memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

SGT Glenn D. Hicks will never be forgotten. his memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA GOVERNOR BOB RILEY AND ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DIRECTOR NEAL WADE FOR THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITING THYSSENKRUPP TO ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Alabama Governor Bob Riley and Alabama Development Office Director Neal Wade for their efforts in recruiting ThyssenKrupp to build a new steel mill in southwest Alabama. ThyssenKrupp is one of Germany's leading steel industries, employing over 180,000 workers at 670 sites around the world, and their economic impact will certainly resonate across Mobile County and the State of Alabama.

Both Governor Riley and Mr. Wade worked extensively over the past 2 years to recruit this world class steel company to Alabama. In an unprecedented way, leaders from across Alabama and the future region came together to promote the Alabama site.

Make no mistake, Alabama encountered stiff competition in their recruitment attempts.

ThyssenKrupp chose Alabama from an initial pool of 67 other locations in 20 States across the country. While other States made competitive offers, ThyssenKrupp determined that Alabama is the best fit—due in large part to the efforts of Governor Bob Riley and Director Wade.

Over a century ago, steel was Alabama's "cash crop" and steel manufacturing played a major role in Alabama's industrial revolution. Now in 2007, Alabama is one of the leading producers of automobiles in the United States. ThyssenKrupp's announcement brings Alabama's steel legacy full circle.

The impact of this new steel mill will be profound. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill promises at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, paying upwards of \$50,000 a year. Construction will require almost 30,000 employees who will earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. Such benefits would not be possible without the efforts of Alabama's outstanding governor and ADO director.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Alabama Governor Bob Riley and Alabama Development Office Director Neal Wade for their outstanding accomplishments. I would like to offer each of them my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the First Congressional District for their continued contributions to the great State of Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUZVIMINDA BANARIA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Luzviminda Banaria, R.N., who has distinguished herself as an outstanding nurse and citizen.

Ms. Luzviminda Banaria has worked at the University Medical Center for over 16 years as a Registered Nurse. She has worked as the pediatric coordinator, and currently is in the surgical department. Ms. Banaria holds many certifications as a nurse, but also serves her community in many ways. She is currently the secretary for the Philippine Nurses Association in Nevada and has been since 2004. She has also served with the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Committee, the board of directors for Luzon Philippine Association of Nevada, and the Bicolanos of Nevada. Ms. Banaria currently serves as the treasurer of the National Federation of Filipinos Association of America and was the vice president of Western UST Nurses Alumni Association of America from 2004–2006. She has even extended a helping hand by sponsoring two patients in the Philippines in need of medical care. Ms. Banaria also helped coordinate medical missions to the needy in the Philippines. She truly has helped many people in the Las Vegas Valley as well as in the Philippines.

Madam Speaker, it is my personal honor to recognize Luzviminda Banaria, R.N., in her outstanding service. I applaud her efforts and wish her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE OF CHIEF YEOMAN (SURFACE WARFARE/ PARACHUTIST) DWIGHT R. SCOTT

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding military service and contributions to our country of YNC (SW/ PJ) Dwight R. Scott, U.S. Navy, a native of Punta Gorda, FL, on the occasion of his retirement from military service on July 31, 2007.

Born in 1967, Chief Scott grew up in Columbus, OH, and attended Brookhaven High School. He entered the Navy in October 1985 as part of the Ohio State Buckeye Company. After completion of Recruit Training at Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL, he reported to Deck Division aboard USS *Mississippi* (CGN 40) at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. He was meritoriously advanced while stationed at Great Lakes.

In June 1986, he was advanced to seaman and tried his hand in the administrative field. He subsequently passed the Yeoman advancement test and advanced to Yeoman Third Class in June 1988. In July 1989, he was meritoriously advanced to Petty Officer Second Class and assigned to the Operations Department. He then qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist proving his knowledge of how the ship operates and fights in time of war.

In January 1990, Chief Scott accepted orders to the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic Command, SACLANT. After a short time on board, he was selected to work for the SACLANT Protocol Office, working directly for the Chief of Staff. As Protocol Assistant, he developed and implemented the NATO locator, a directory of over 400 dignitaries from 16 NATO nations. He was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for his contributions to the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

Promoted to First Class in November 1993, he was assigned to Joint Special Operations Command, JSOC, in Fayetteville, NC. At JSOC, he qualified as a parachutist with the Army 82nd Airborne and then qualified as a Naval Parachutist. Chief Scott was awarded the Australian Army Parachute Badge, the Joint Special Achievement Medal, Second Award, and the Joint Commendation Medal. After 4 years at JSOC he was assigned to the Office of Legislative Affairs, OLA—the very best job of his career. Chief Scott worked on Capitol Hill for 4 years and traveled extensively with Members of Congress and their

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

staffs. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his contributions to OLA.

In May 1999, he earned the rank of chief petty officer and received orders to Commander, Military Sealift Command, Europe, COMSCEUR, in Naples, Italy. He served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Administrative Officer and Command Chief to COMSCEUR. He was entrusted with the health, morale, and welfare of all COMSC enlisted sailors assigned to the European Area of Responsibility. Chief Scott earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Second Award) for his noteworthy contributions. In November 2005, he accepted orders as the Leading Chief Petty Officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The citizens of the State of Mississippi, particularly the 4th Congressional District, are proud of Chief Scott's service. They join me in thanking him and his family for their contributions to the Navy and the Nation, and in wishing them all the best both now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ORVAL ALLEN KELSO

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Orval Allen Kelso.

Today, deeply engaged in a war on terror, thousands of American civilians are working and serving in harm's way. Like the brave men and women serving in uniform, these patriotic citizens risk their lives everyday in an effort to rebuild a stronger future for the people of Iraq. However, they are not alone. American civilian contractors have been operating in combat theatres since as early as World War II, and I am here today to tell you about one of those.

Orval Allen Kelso was a civilian working on Wake Island during the early 1940s. Hailing from Emmett, Idaho, Orval worked as a baker in his father-in-law's bakery before going on to pursue better wages working overseas. Mr. Kelso worked as a heavy machine operator throughout the Pacific until April 8, 1943, when he was captured and taken as a POW to Camp 18, Sesabo, Japan. Orval later died in that camp. His remains were claimed by his son in 1949, when they were brought back to rest on U.S. soil at the National Memorial Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is fitting that we honor Mr. Kelso for his sacrifice and also be reminded of the many others who were taken prisoner or who paid the ultimate sacrifice working in harm's way. We often forget about the non-military Americans who gave their all for the freedoms we cherish in our great Nation. Let us help remedy that today by recognizing Mr. Kelso and the civilian POW's taken during World War II. They are an exemplary example of the selflessness displayed by Americans in an effort to bring peace and freedom to millions, and we thank them for their sacrifice.

COMMENDING MRS. PATRICIA CASSELL ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY.

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mrs. Patricia Cassell on her long and distinguished service to her community, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement after 48 years of teaching.

As a first grader, Mrs. Cassell knew her future lay in the field of education. However, coming from modest means, Mrs. Cassell understood that she would have to work exceptionally hard to achieve her dream. At a very young age, she began saving her money in order to pay for her college education. After graduating sixth in her high school class of 308, she earned two academic scholarships to Millersville State Teachers College, where she earned her degree in elementary education in just 3 years.

Her first job teaching started just over 48 years ago, in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, and she has been teaching since. After moving to Atlantic City, NJ, in 1973 with her husband, Daniel, Mrs. Cassell soon accepted a position at Atlantic Christian School where she has taught for 29 years.

Throughout her 48 years of teaching, Mrs. Cassell has remained a steadfast example of exemplary service, guidance, and dedication to her students. For this, she was awarded the Career Service and Achievement Award from the Association of Christian Schools International. I would like to personally congratulate Mrs. Cassell on behalf of the students she has taught over the years and ask that she thoroughly enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HILDA MCDONALD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of former Milton City Councilwoman Hilda McDonald. Following a battle with cancer, Hilda left us Thursday, May 17, at the age of 83.

A native Floridian, Hilda pursued a degree in research biology from Florida State's College for Women. However, she gave up her studies during World War II to teach under an emergency teaching certificate. This kind of selfless behavior was prominent throughout Hilda's life.

In 1984, Hilda began serving on the City Council for the city of Milton and remained on the board for 16 years. During these years Hilda founded Blackwater Baptist Church and the Benevolent Association of Santa Rosa County. She also became the first President of the Women's Advisory Council for Santa Rosa Hospital and led as Chair for the restoration of Milton's City Hall. Mayor Guy Thompson who knew Hilda for 30 years explained, "She had a heart for helping people, and that reflected in the life she led."

It is certain the people of Milton are mourning the loss of Hilda, who played an important role in over 15 community organizations. However, her legacy is sure to continue through the generations of her family she nurtured and guided. My thoughts and prayers remain with her 9 children, 13 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her brother.

Hilda's daughter, Mary Golden, has said of her mother "the one thing I would like my mother to be known for was that she was a giver. She gave to others constantly throughout her life. And she was such a good mother, a wonderful Christian mother."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Hilda McDonald from this world. Hilda will be remembered as a leader, a giver, and an adamant philanthropist. May God rest her soul and continue to bless her family.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the attached report describing the attacks by the brutal military dictatorship against the ethnic peoples of Burma. The situation facing the internally displaced is dire. The international community needs to step up its assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In addition, the international community must act immediately to stop the ethnic cleansing and other horrific acts by the dictatorship against the people of Burma.

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL—BURMA: MILITARY OFFENSIVE DISPLACING THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS

The worst Burmese military offensive in 10 years has displaced at least 27,000 people in eastern Burma's Karen State since November 2005. The displaced are civilians who have been targeted by the army and are living in exceptionally vulnerable conditions. An estimated three million people have been forced to migrate in Burma as a result of conflict, persecution, human rights abuses, and repressive government measures that prevent people from earning a livelihood. Instead of fulfilling its responsibility to protect its citizens, the Government of Burma, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), is the biggest perpetrator of violations in the country.

Ethnic groups, comprising one-third of Burma's 52 million people, have borne the brunt of the government's repressive policies. The pattern of the Burmese military or the Tatmadaw has been to eliminate all opposition and take full control of ethnic areas. As part of its strategy to curb the support of ethnic insurgent armies, it targets civilians it perceives as backers of the insurgent groups.

In the course of Tatmadaw operations at least 3,000 villages have been destroyed along the eastern Burma border since 1996. Villagers have been forced to flee to hiding sites in jungles, move to government-controlled relocation sites, or travel to relatively more secure ceasefire locations. Today Burma is estimated to have the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia. More than 500,000 civilians are displaced in eastern Burma, with those in hiding being the most vulnerable. People unable to care for themselves

and their families have fled to Burma's neighboring countries of Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand in search of asylum. Burma's refugee crisis has a regional impact and the number of refugees from the country is believed to be more than one million.

As the military takes control of new territory in ethnic areas, it initiates development projects and exploits natural resources, which displace more civilians. The forced migration of civilians is ongoing even in ethnic states, such as Mon and Kachin, where political leaders have signed ceasefire agreements with the central authorities. According to a Burmese asylum seeker interviewed by Refugees International in Thailand, "The outside world thinks that just because a cease fire has been signed between the Mon and the SPDC, it is safe for us to live in Burma. But we continue to face abuses on a daily basis. The military confiscated all my orchards and my family could barely survive. We still tried to stay but had to leave when the military tried to recruit my teenage son."

The Karen National Union, the indigenous political leadership in Karen State, has not entered into a ceasefire agreement with the SPDC and conflict and displacement are not new phenomena there. However, the intensity and spread of the Tatmadaw offensive in recent months are estimated to be the worst in more than a decade. The attack is linked to the military's attempt to consolidate its control over parts of Karen State and the districts of Toungoo, Papun and Nyaunglebin have been particularly hard-hit by the offensive. According to a community-based organization assisting the internally displaced, the recent attacks differ from previous ones in that the military did not withdraw during the 2006 rainy season but continued to attack the same areas repeatedly.

In order to protect themselves, Karen communities have been trying to establish early warning systems. Villagers are constantly on watch to be able to anticipate Tatmadaw attacks and whenever possible, the Karen ethnic army has been warning villagers ahead of an attack so they can go into hiding. At present there remains a lack of an adequate number of communication tools for advance warning.

The military has planted a large number of landmines in and around villages so people are unable to go beyond a certain area, and at the time of harvesting many do not have access to their crops. In some parts of Karen State the army has set rice fields on fire. According to the estimates of a community-based organization assisting the internally displaced, 25,000 people have lost their harvest for the entire year, and in Lerdo Township alone, 2,800 civilians are believed to have been taken away from their villages and fields by the Tatmadaw to relocation sites where they are being forced to dig trenches and build fencing. Since 2006, the military has also placed a prohibition on trading in some areas of Karen State and prevented villagers from selling or buying certain products around harvest time. After harvest time, villagers are allowed to sell their products, but at half the normal price and only to the military, contributing to food insecurity.

Besides food, the displaced are in urgent need of shelter and medicines. The displaced in Karen State are being assisted largely through cross-border assistance, coming from agencies based in Thailand, and a few community-based organizations inside Burma. This aid is helping people cope with their situation and preventing large numbers from fleeing to Thailand as refugees. Although in recent years donors have allocated more funds for aid to internally displaced people, both for cross-border operations and

those inside Burma, the number of vulnerable people has gone up significantly with the latest offensive in Karen State and it is critical that donors respond accordingly.

In terms of medical assistance, Karen internally displaced people are relying largely on traditional curative techniques or on mobile teams, back pack health workers, and Karen medical units who may be able to access them only after navigating their way through heavily militarized territory.

Organizations based in Thailand and Burma that are assisting the internally displaced from across the border and inside the country have improved communications in recent months, but there remains a need to strengthen information sharing on the activities being undertaken by both sides.

Many of those displaced in the recent attacks in Karen State who have been able to reach the Thai-Burma border are living in settlements on the Burma side. One of these, the Ei Tu Hta camp, set up in April 2006, is home to 3,000 persons mostly from Toungoo district. Approximately 5,000 recently displaced Karen have also crossed the border into Thailand. Some of them have entered refugee camps, are recognized as asylum seekers, and are awaiting approval from the Provincial Admission Boards, the Thai Government's entities for processing new arrivals. This has largely been the case in Mae Hong Son Province. In Tak Province's Mae La camp, however, none of the new arrivals are recognized and they are living unofficially in the camp.

The Thai Government is concerned that recent efforts to resettle Burmese refugees in third countries is drawing recent arrivals to camps. The Governor of Tak Province has announced that no food or accommodation would be made available to new arrivals in the camps in that province. Further, the Provincial Admission Boards are not fully functional in each of the provinces, and there remains a void for processing new arrivals in certain areas.

The Burmese internal displacement and refugee crises are linked to the regime's policy of targeting civilians. All regional and local initiatives to urge the SPDC to stop attacking civilians and protect its people have failed. The non-binding Security Council resolution introduced by the U.S. in January 2007, which included a call to the SPDC to cease attacks on the country's ethnic minorities, was vetoed by China and Russia. Until such time that all members of the UN Security Council acknowledge that the SPDC must be held accountable, and develop a united approach to address the government's failure to protect its people, the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia will persist.

Refugees International, therefore, recommends that:

The Burmese military immediately halt all attacks on civilians.

The UN Security Council members reach consensus on a strategy to pressure the SPDC to stop its abuse of civilians and hold it accountable for its failure to protect Burma's people.

Donors support initiatives to assist internally displaced people by agencies doing cross-border work and agencies operating inside Burma, with funding directed to the most vulnerable.

Donors support initiatives to enhance IDP protection through early warning systems.

Agencies based inside Burma and organizations operating out of Thailand continue to improve coordination and collaboration through regular meetings and information sharing forums.

The Government of Thailand allow new asylum seekers from Burma official access to all camps and ensure that the Provincial

Admission Boards are functioning consistently so the new arrivals can be processed.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF HELEN BRADLEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Helen Bradley, a woman who spent a lifetime giving back to the community she loved dearly through her dedicated service as Jefferson County clerk. She was a true treasure to Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, and her honorable service will never be forgotten by the State of Arkansas. She passed away May 11, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 59.

I am grateful to have known Helen Bradley and to have had the privilege to call her a personal friend. She spent her life and career making her community a better place for all who called it home.

Mrs. Bradley's lasting impact on Jefferson County will be remembered forever. Her selfless and devoted career began after graduating from what is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, when she was hired as deputy county clerk for Jefferson County. She held that position for 22 years before she was elected to serve as Jefferson County's first African-American county clerk. During her career, she also served as secretary for the Jefferson County Quorum Court and the Equalization Board. Mrs. Bradley was also a member of the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers, the West Pine Bluff Rotary Club and she was a proud member of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, she received the distinguished Pine Bluff Branch NAACP Dove Freedom Award in October 2006.

My deepest condolences go to Mrs. Bradley's husband, Sylvester Bradley, Sr., of Pine Bluff; her two sons, Sedgwick McCollum of Flint, MI, and Brandon Bradley of Plano, TX; her daughter, Tarnisha Gibson of Columbia, SC; her two brothers, James Edward McClinton of Flint, MI, and John Albert McClinton of Pine Bluff; her sister, Cecile Blade of Pine Bluff; and to her 9 grandchildren. Mrs. Bradley will be greatly missed, and her contributions to the city of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and the State of Arkansas will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCING THE CHARITABLE REMAINDER PET TRUST ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, Representative RAMSTAD and I are introducing legislation that revises the Internal Revenue Code, IRC, to treat pet trusts in a similar manner as charitable remainder annuity trusts, CRATs. It will allow estates and donors with CRATs with a pet, or its guardian as

a beneficiary, to receive a charitable deduction for the remainder interest when the trust is established. The bill provides a tax incentive for people to arrange for long-term care of their pets, which will result in a reduction of society's burden in caring for "unwanted" dogs and cats after the guardian dies.

Currently 39 States and the District of Columbia allow pet trusts, which is a specific legal arrangement providing for the care of companion animals in the event of the guardian's death or incapacitation. When the pet passes, the remainder of the trust is then distributed to one or more pre-designated charities. Recognition of these trusts by the Federal Tax Code will allow for long-term planning of care for pets, as well as encourage people to engage in charitable giving. The legislation bears no cost burden for the Federal Government and brings relief to animal lovers and shelters alike.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLES MCMILLAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles McMillan, a constituent of the 26th District of Texas, who has been elected the new President for the National Association of Realtors for 2008 and will subsequently serve as Chairman for NAR in 2009.

Mr. McMillan, a Realtor® for more than 20 years, is director of realty relations and principal broker for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Dallas-Fort Worth. At the national level, McMillan was NAR 2006 first vice president-elect. He has twice served as NAR regional vice president of Region X, which includes Texas and Louisiana. He is a member of the NAR Leadership Team, the executive committee, and the Strategic Planning committee. He has also been recognized by NAR as an expert in the areas of agency, antitrust, misrepresentation, fair housing, and diversity.

In 1998, he was president of the Texas Association of Realtors®, and was vice president and secretary-treasurer before that. He was Texas "Realtor® of the Year" in 2000, and now has risen to the leadership role of president of the National Association of Realtors for 2008.

Mr. McMillan is also very active in his north Texas community as a life member of the Texas Real Estate Teachers Association. He is a past chairman of the Community Development Council of Fort Worth, the Tarrant County Affordable Housing Task Force, and the Housing Subcommittee of Fort Worth, and a past director of the United Way of Tarrant County and of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

It is my honor to congratulate Mr. Charles McMillan for his recent election to president of his association. He is admired in the community for helping others, and I am glad that his work is being recognized at a national level. I am honored to represent him in Congress.

HONORING NANCY EWTON SHARPE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF A MAJOR MILESTONE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, Milestones indicate distances traveled by one or many, collectively. I rise today to honor one individual from the beautiful Sequatchie Valley for having reached the 50-year anniversary of a major milestone in her life.

Ms. Nancy Ewton Sharpe of Dunlap, Tennessee, the first born of W. Howard and Jeanette Campbell Ewton, was brought into this world on April 1, 1938. Her grandparents, F.P. and Nancy Ann Ewton, started a funeral home in 1919 and built their own caskets. Nancy attended school in Dunlap for 12 years graduating in 1956. She then began studies at the John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science in Nashville, Tennessee. Graduating in 1957, she was the first dually licensed female funeral director-embalmer in the State of Tennessee. I rise today to honor Ms. Sharpe's accomplishment and celebrate the 50th anniversary of her success.

TRIBUTE TO JONESBORO H.S. MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great achievement by students in my congressional district. Congratulations to the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team, which proudly represented the State of Georgia at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Dallas, Texas, in early May. The Jonesboro team defeated 40 other schools from across the Nation to win the 2007 National Title.

Mock Trial offers students the opportunity to understand the many important aspects of our legal system, including trial preparation and standard courtroom procedures. In the fall, each team begins to prepare for their local competition by preparing for trial just as real lawyers would. If a team like Jonesboro High School is so fortunate to win both county and State competitions, they have half as much time to prepare for a substantially harder competition at the national level. Even with these great challenges, the Jonesboro team persevered and achieved victory nationally and they are champions.

I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Jonesboro High School team by acknowledging the students and coaches who made this victory possible. The competitors were Brian Cunningham, Lindley Curtis, Kayla Delgado, Matthew Mitchell, Braeden Orr, Laura Parkhouse, Kyle Skinner, Britt Walden, Jayda Hazell, Joe Strickland, Lindsay Hargis, Jurod James, Sandra Hagans and Tabias Kelly. The Jonesboro High team was led by Anna and Andrew Cox, attorney coaches John Carbo and Deborah Benefield, Tasha Mosley and Mercer Law School student coach Katie Powers.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to extend congratulations to all of these outstanding individuals in achieving the 2007 National High School Mock Trial National Title.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STOP DE- CEPTIVE ADVERTISING FOR WOMEN'S SERVICES ACT (SDAWS)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing important legislation that will protect the rights of women seeking information on family planning services. Too often, women who are facing the difficult consequences of an unintended pregnancy are being deceived and intimidated. Fake reproductive health clinics entice women with unintended pregnancies through their doors under the pretense of providing the full range of reproductive options. Called crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), they pose as sources of unbiased pregnancy counseling using neutral-sounding names and advertisements. Some of these centers have even conducted market research to ensure that women looking for healthcare will be tricked into believing that the anti-choice centers will provide unbiased medical information. The centers also lure unsuspecting women with the offer of free pregnancy testing or HIV tests. Once inside, the clinic staff—usually volunteers with no professional training—try to dissuade women from abortion by subjecting them to inaccurate medical information, anti-choice propaganda, and intimidation.

In response to the deceitful practices of these centers, this legislation requires the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate rules under the Federal Trade Commission Act, declaring it an unfair or deceptive act for an entity, such as a crisis pregnancy center, to advertise as a provider of abortion services if the entity does not provide abortion services. Working together we can help stop the fraud these deceptive Crisis Pregnancy Centers are perpetrating on the women of America.

THE INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 156, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEC- ARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce this Resolution expressing support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and urging the United States Ambassador to the United Nations General Assembly to support the adoption without amendment of the Declaration as adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on June 29, 2006.

There are over 300 million indigenous peoples throughout the world today, striving for international recognition of their collective

rights as they struggle to preserve their cultures, traditions, and social values. In their respective States, these indigenous groups face serious challenges of marginalization, discrimination, loss of lands, and lack of economic development in their communities.

The draft U.N. Declaration recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination, freedom from discrimination, and freedom from forced assimilation. This Declaration would establish an international policy on indigenous rights and provide a framework for States in the treatment of their indigenous populations.

The U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, over 24 years in the making, is an important step forward in the advancement of stronger, more harmonious relationships between the indigenous peoples of the world and States. In many ways, the United States stands as a model for other nations as we support a Federal policy of self-determination for our own indigenous people. Passage of this Resolution, H. Con. Res. 156, would demonstrate our commitment here in Congress to support the rights of our indigenous people here and throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me and support H. Con. Res. 156.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, today Representative DEAN HELLER and I introduced the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Act. The bill is a companion to S. 300, which was introduced in the Senate earlier this year by Senator JON KYL of Arizona.

The bill provides for a long-term, comprehensive, cooperative program among 50 Federal and non-Federal entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada to protect 26 endangered, threatened and sensitive species on the Lower Colorado River and to provide assurances to affected water and power agencies of the two States that their operations may continue upon compliance with the requirements of this program.

The program will create over 8,100 acres of riparian, marsh and backwater habitat for protected species, and includes plans for the rearing and stocking of more than 1.2 million fish to augment populations of two endangered fish covered by the program.

The program will operate on and around the Colorado River from Lake Mead to the U.S.-Mexico border, but like most water issues relating to the Colorado, its effects will be felt throughout Arizona, and across the southwestern United States.

This bill has been more than a decade in the making, and I believe it is a worthy, bipartisan compromise. The program's cost will be divided 50–50 between the Federal Government and the non-Federal participants. California participants will pay 50 percent of the non-Federal share, and Arizona and Nevada participants will pay 25 percent of the non-Federal share.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the weeks and months to come to make this long sought program a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE TERMINAL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS AS THE 2007 RECIPIENT OF THE E.H. HARRIMAN AWARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis for being awarded the E.H. Harriman Award in recognition of their outstanding safety achievements.

The E.H. Harriman Award was established in 1913 by Mary Harriman, wife of the late Edward H. Harriman, who controlled and expanded a number of railroads, including the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Illinois Central. Mary Harriman, nee Averell, was from a railroad family herself so it was fitting that she would establish this award to recognize safety achievements on the part of the railroads whose workers labored in some of the most dangerous occupations.

While the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis was established in 1889, its predecessor companies were the pioneers in the river crossing at St. Louis which played a pivotal part in the growth of the states west of the Mississippi. Originally, ferries transported cargo and passengers across the Mississippi River at St. Louis until the first bridge, the Eads Bridge which still functions today, was completed in 1874. A second bridge was added in 1890 and, with the concentration of a number of railroads crossing the Mississippi at this location, it soon became apparent that a coordinated effort was necessary to handle the growing switching operations on the Missouri side in St. Louis and on the Illinois side in St. Clair and Madison counties. The Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis was formed by the predecessor river crossing companies and the six railroads that converged at the Illinois and Missouri sides of the Mississippi River at St. Louis.

Today, the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis owns two bridges across the Mississippi, several rail lines within St. Louis, Missouri and St. Clair and Madison counties in Illinois as well as a switching facility in Madison, Illinois. At this switching facility, approximately 30,000 rail cars each month move through 80 holding tracks as they are redirected to routes that will take them, their cargo and passengers to locations all throughout the country.

Workplace safety is a critical component of any commercial enterprise and railroads have historically been among the most dangerous places to work. With the tremendous volume of traffic handled daily by the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, the safety of their workers relies on a cooperative effort on the part of management and those workers who must engage in these hazardous activities. Terminal Railroad has been a recipient of the E.H. Harriman Award a number of times in the past and this recent award recognizes their achievement in workplace safety during 2006.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, its management and employees for this very well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO WHITEMORE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 100 years of history in a small town in my congressional district. This weekend, the city of Whittemore celebrates its 100th anniversary, an all the residents of Whittemore should be proud of their contributions to the growth of this community.

While Whittemore was officially incorporated as a city in 1907, the community's history dates back to an earlier time. Before its official incorporation, the city was part of Burleigh Township and was a timber town. The area was well known for its white pine timber. In the late 1800s, lumbering moved west from neighboring Tawas City, and a rail line was constructed to transport timber from the small logging community that would become Whittemore to Tawas City. Because of this early economic development, Whittemore was officially incorporated in 1907, the community was already booming.

During the early 1900s, the area underwent a significant economic shift. As lumber supplies in the area were depleted, the town evolved into a farming community, and families from around the region flocked to the Whittemore area to purchase affordable farmland. It was during this early period that the historic Bullock's and Horr Hall was constructed. The Hall, which is recognized as a local landmark, still stands today and houses the Masonic Temple. In the early 1900s, the building served as a gathering place for residents. In 1907, the Whittemore High School was erected.

The area continued to thrive throughout the early twentieth century and, by the 1940s, the town was thriving with a local bank, a hotel and bar, three grocery stores, and two car dealerships. Whittemore also boasted Joe Collins' Five and Dime store, a gathering place for local children who would visit the store daily to purchase candy.

The 1940s also brought about the creation of the Whittemore Speedway; which still exists today and is considered Michigan's oldest speedway. In 1948, Whittemore Speedway started as a half-mile dirt track. Area residents would gather there every Saturday night with friends, family and neighbors to watch the races. Throughout the 1940s, the race track served as the entertainment focal point for this small community.

The Whittemore Speedway has been continually updated and improved throughout the years. It continues to thrive today, hosting some of the best local family entertainment and races, while contributing many of its proceeds to area charity organizations and communities.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Whittemore continued to boom, but, like in many small towns across our nation, things began to change. One of the major employers, National Gypsum, began making employee cutbacks as it modernized its facility. Gradually, over time, businesses began moving out of Whittemore.

Yet, while change had come to Whittemore, the citizens of the town and its surrounding

community have kept many of the characteristics that have guided its growth over the past century. The entrepreneurial spirit that resulted in the early settlement of the area as a logging community remains intact today. Local businesses continue to proudly exhibit that same entrepreneurial spirit. For instance, Sherni's Candies in Whittemore continues to ship candy all over the country. Dixon and Ryan, the inventor of a unique tool used in NASCAR to measure wear on tires, continues to thrive. Turner Cheese Company continues to specialize in the creation of amazingly creamy and flavorful cheese.

The young people of Whittemore-Prescott High School have also achieved a number of notable successes that exemplify Whittemore's spirit. In 2000, the school won the state football championship. A number of students from Whittemore-Prescott High School have been appointed to the military academies that produce our nation's military leaders.

In addition to the local entrepreneurial spirit that it has preserved, Whittemore has also maintained its small town values. Community is important to the citizens of Whittemore and neighbors make a point of knowing each other there. For these reasons, while some businesses have left the town, the residents have stayed. The city's population in 1907 was about 500. Today, the population remains at a respectable 480. Moreover, many of the same families have remained in Whittemore. Some families have inhabited this small town for as many as six or seven generations.

Madam Speaker, while many people in Michigan, and most people throughout our country, have not heard of the city of Whittemore, I believe there is much to be admired in the city's history and character. As this small town and its citizens celebrate Whittemore's centennial, I would ask that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating this town and its past, present and future citizens on reaching this milestone and in acknowledging the city's place in Michigan's history.

HONORING THE LIFE OF YOLANDA KING

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness over the untimely passing of Yolanda Denise King, eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King. Yolanda King, despite losing her father at the age of 12, strived to carry on her father's legacy of equality and justice for all. Despite her family name, Yolanda King used her own talents to affect social and personal change through her lectures and the arts.

Yolanda King was born on November 17, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, where her father was then preaching. She was born just 2 weeks before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus there, leading to the Montgomery bus boycott spearheaded by her father. She was just 10 weeks old when the King family home was bombed on January 30, 1956, as her father attended a boycott rally, but she was unharmed by the explosion. She

was 7 when her father mentioned her and her siblings in his 1963 speech at the March on Washington and she was 12 when her father was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968.

After receiving a B.A. degree with honors in Theatre and African-American Studies from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, Ms. King moved to New York to earn her masters degree in theatre at New York University. She honed her teaching skills while working with young people at the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia. Many of Ms. King's stage, television and film credits reflect her commitment to social change and include portrayals of Rosa Parks in the NBC-TV movie "King" (1978), Dr. Betty Shabazz in the film "Death of a Prophet" (1981), and Medgar Evers's daughter, Reena, in "Ghosts of Mississippi" (1996). Her most recent theatrical production was "Achieving the Dream" in which she portrayed several characters in the movement for civil and human rights, and was featured during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

In addition to her rich acting career, Yolanda King also carried on her parents' legacy through her commitment to raise awareness and enhance understanding about the importance of diversity. Ms. King addressed Fortune 500 companies and the United Nations as well as religious, civic and educational groups in the United States, Europe, and Africa. She was founder and CEO of Higher Ground Productions, a California-based organization dedicated to social change and world peace by advocating diversity and unity. She also promoted awareness through her writing. She was the co-author of the book, *Open My Eyes, Open My Soul*, as well as *Embracing Your Power in 30 Days*, a step by step, daily tool for personal growth based on her very personal experiences.

Yolanda King was honored with numerous presentations, awards and citations by organizations around the country and was named one of the Outstanding Young Women of America. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. (the official national memorial to Dr. King) and was founding Director of the King Center's Cultural Affairs Program. She served on the Partnership Council of Habitat for Humanity, was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was a sponsor of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and held a lifetime membership in the NAACP. She was the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees.

And so today I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Yolanda King's outstanding career and life achievements. Yolanda King dedicated her life to promote unity and nonviolence across the country and the world. She was left a strong and important legacy set by Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King, but ultimately utilized her own abilities and talent to inspire people from all walks of life to reach higher ground, to motivate people to move forward, and to empower people to make a difference.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV. MARJORIE KITCHELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Marjorie Kitchell, who has dedicated 40 years of service to the Christian Center Church.

Rev. Kitchell, who moved to Boulder City in 1967 to begin her work with the Christian Center Church, opened the Christian Center Daycare and Preschool shortly after her arrival. The daycare, which is Nevada's longest running licensed daycare, and the preschool have proved to be valued and trusted centers of early education. Since 1972, Rev. Kitchell has served the congregation of the Christian Center Church as the senior pastor. In addition to her service to the people of the Christian Center Church, Rev. Kitchell was the past Boulder City Police Chaplain, has served on the Boulder City Juvenile Conference Committee, was the past president and a current member of the Boulder City Ministerial Association and currently serves as District Supervisor of her denomination's churches in the Henderson and Las Vegas area. In addition to her work throughout the community, Rev. Kitchell is the author of numerous articles and a book, *My Mother's Keeper*.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Rev. Marjorie Kitchell. Her work is commendable and I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CITRONELLE MAYOR STANLEY HERRING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Citronelle, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Stanley Herring, a devoted family man, was dedicated to the continued growth and prosperity of Citronelle—a dedication that was evident up until the very end of his life. Despite his months-long battle with throat cancer, Mayor Herring went to city hall each morning to attend to city business.

But, politics wasn't Mayor Herring's only calling. It was only after retiring from ExxonMobil Corp. as a technician that he entered local politics. An avid supporter of local youth and high school athletics—Mayor Herring, himself, was inducted into the Alabama Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame. He served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Memorial Baptist Church in Citronelle. In 1996, Citronelle elected him city councilman, a post he held until 2004, the year he was elected mayor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a man who deeply loved the city of Citronelle. He will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Alice Leigh Herring;

his mother, Irene Herring; his children, Sandy Fagan, Paula Leigh Callaway, and Stanley Eugene Herring Jr.; his two sisters, Frances Doyle Herring and Joyce Rios; his three brothers, Jimmie Herring, Michael Herring, and Robert Herring; and his 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY ZHU

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent Danny Zhu of College Point, NY. Danny is one of 24 finalists on the 2007 United States Physics Team that have been chosen to compete for the Traveling Team, a group of five students who will represent the United States at the International Physics Olympiad in Iran. These gifted students will show their merit against the best young scientific minds that the world has to offer.

Danny is a junior at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, where he excels at the highest skill levels. Outside of the classroom, he is heavily involved in student groups, participating in everything from the robotics club to the school band. He has reached the semifinals of the Physics Olympiad competition in each of the last 2 years and has placed in the top 10 in multiple national math and science competitions.

I am very pleased that a young man from my district could so well personify Speaker PELOSI's Innovation Agenda. It is young people like Danny Zhu and his fellow finalists that will become our next generation of great innovators: the mathematicians, engineers, and scientists who will keep this great country competitive and prosperous in the upcoming decades. I would like to again congratulate Danny Zhu on his accomplishment and thank him for his effort and hard work.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH ENHANCEMENT AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, our wounded warriors have returned from combat with varying degrees of injury. Some of these physical injuries, such as bullet wounds or losing a limb have been diagnosed and treated since the dawn of our Republic. Others, such as Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI, have required the practices of treating veterans to evolve and adapt so that we can give our returning service members the quality of care and the quality of life they deserve.

The bill before us today is an example of how our system must adapt to these increas-

ingly devastating injuries, specifically TBI. H.R. 2199 would require that Veterans Affairs, VA, screen every combat veteran for TBI and submit a report to Congress on the number of returning soldiers that have this debilitating injury, and how we can improve upon the care they receive. Additionally, the VA would be required to establish transition sites so that those service members who are diagnosed have the ability to choose various recovery programs that are most comfortable to them.

What makes TBI such a frightening injury is that the symptoms are not instantaneous. A service member might not know if he or she has TBI until weeks after the initial jolt or blow to the head. If treatment is not readily available, then permanent brain damage and loss of motor skills and cognitive thought may be the end result.

For this reason, I am pleased that the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has taken up this legislation and continues to seek ways to better the care that our returning men and women will receive. H.R. 2199 is similar to legislation that was passed during the 108th Congress which increased research and outreach activities to service members with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD.

I am proud to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and I look forward to supporting further legislation that addresses the complex needs of our Nation's veterans. As Memorial Day approaches, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans have made to preserve freedom and how much work we need to do to properly honor that sacrifice. I believe that passing H.R. 2199 is a good first step in showing that we in Congress recognize the evolving needs of our brave veterans.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #290

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the American Legion Auxiliary #290, in Elwood, Nebraska—a beautiful town in my congressional district.

They distribute red poppies in honor of all living and deceased veterans, with donations going to rehabilitation efforts and filling other needs for veterans. The poppies are made by patients of VA hospitals and residents of veterans homes.

As we go into the Memorial Day weekend, many of our constituents will be holding backyard cook outs, or taking the boat out for a spin, or just getting out of town for a quick vacation.

In Flanders Field, the poppies grow among the crosses, row on row. These words remind us we owe our thanks to people like the members of American Legion Auxiliary #290, those who help us remember our troops and the sacrifices they have made.

AZERBAIJAN MARKS 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in venues ranging from the Bundestag to the U.S. Congress to the streets of Baku, Azerbaijanis worldwide will mark their National Day of the Republic this upcoming week. Since achieving independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan has remembered May 28 as the date, in 1918, when the country was proclaimed an independent state, making it the first democratic republic in the Caucasus region.

Though it lasted only 2 years, from May 1918 to April 1920, this first democratically elected Azerbaijani government worked on building an independent and democratic state.

Members of the Azerbaijani Diaspora regard the date as a key one among the numerous commemorative days they observe each year.

Even when such a state did not formally exist anywhere on the world map, it existed in our hearts, our souls, and our minds, said Tomris Azeri, president of the Azerbaijan Society of America. It is this strong sense of being an Azerbaijani, which we are now free to show to ourselves and the world. And with that freedom for Azerbaijan has come growing prosperity, and growing respect, involvement, and influence in the world community.

I commend Ambassador Yashar Aliyev for his hard work and dedication. I look forward to the United States continuing a successful relationship and strong friendship with the people of Azerbaijan.

TRIBUTE TO LUCIOUS L. NEWHOUSE, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a proactive citizen from Dallas, Texas, Lucious L. Newhouse, Jr. As youth education is of great importance, I am delighted to recognize his 39 years as an educator and wish him well regarding his upcoming retirement. I would like to take a few moments to reflect on his many achievements and contributions to the city of Dallas and the Dallas Independent School District.

As the son of two educators, Lucious L. Newhouse, Jr., showed early signs of excellence, graduating as salutatorian from Galilee High School in Hallsville, Texas. Lucious then went on to obtain a bachelor of science degree from Prairie View A&M University and to star on the university's baseball team. Also to note, he obtained two graduate degrees from this same institution, a master of science and master of the arts.

Shortly after completing his undergraduate study and starting his teaching career at J.N. Irwin Junior High School in Dallas, Lucious was called to serve our great Nation as both an army sergeant and platoon leader in Vietnam. He would then return to DISD where he

taught and coached for 24 years and served as an administrator for 14.

Supplementing his 39 years as an educator, Lucious is additionally a very spiritual man and has been an active member of the community. Lucious is an avid member of the Cedar CME Crest Cathedral, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and has served as both president and vice president of the Dallas Coaches Association and Dallas Schools Administrators Association.

Lucious Newhouse, Jr., has always taken pride in his work and been dedicated to the children of Dallas. This compassionate man never failed to show that he cared for his students, his fellow teachers, administrators, and staff members. I urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Newhouse, Jr., for all he has done for Texas's educational system and the wonderful city of Dallas.

HOUSE RESOLUTION INTRODUC- TION: RECOGNIZING RACHEL CARSON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation honoring the legacy of Rachel Carson, the ecologist and author whose courage, selfless spirit and sense of wonder ushered in the modern environmental movement.

May 27, 2007, will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rachel Carson. While we as a nation continue to feel the impact of man-made environmental challenges and consider measures to lessen our impact on the planet, it is important to remember the person who first warned us of the hazards of environmental degradation, while capturing our hearts with her love and concern for nature.

Through her tireless activism and inspiring literature, in particular her book *Silent Spring*, Carson raised public awareness about humanity's inherent relationship to nature. In exposing the dangers of chemical pesticides, Carson demonstrated how life at all levels is interconnected, from the bottom of the food chain to humans at the top.

Carson wrote her landmark book, testified before Congress and rallied support for environmental awareness and action while secretly fighting the debilitating effects of the cancer that would soon take her life. Although she preferred quiet anonymity, Carson weathered tremendous scrutiny and made a courageous stand against powerful industry interests to serve the greater good.

Though she died at the young age of 56, Carson's impact was astounding. In the years immediately following her death, the U.S. Government enacted a string of environmental laws, created the Environmental Protection Agency and banned most uses of the chemical pesticide DDT, which resulted in the resurgence of numerous American ecosystems and wildlife species.

Rachel Carson's influence continues to reverberate, now more than 40 years after her death, in the ongoing struggle to balance the needs of our society with a healthy environment.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to pass this resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF BOB BARKER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man from my district recognized the world over for his contributions to popular culture and society. For the last 35 years, Robert William Barker has been a familiar face in a world of ever-changing television personalities as the indefatigable host of "The Price is Right."

His extraordinary television career began in 1956 with the show "Truth or Consequences," which broke records by remaining on daytime television for a remarkable 18 years. With his career in the national spotlight, he brought the program back home to Missouri, airing it live from Springfield on April 14, 1972. That same year, he also began hosting "The Price is Right." For 3 years, Bob hosted both shows concurrently—making it look effortless to his growing audience of friends and admirers.

His work would yield extraordinary results. Not only has "The Price is Right" become the longest running game show in television history, it has earned the distinction of being named the highest-rated game show of all time—a product of Bob's singular talent and tireless work ethic.

Among his other notable credits, he hosted the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants and the Rose Parade for 21 years; won 17 Emmys and was nominated for two more; was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 2004; and was named by the Guinness Book of World Records as "The Most Generous Game Show Host" and "The Most Durable Performer" in television history.

Always a man whose popularity cut across ethnic, social, and generational boundaries, Bob's popularity soared even higher with young people after his appearance in Adam Sandler's hit movie "Happy Gilmore," for which he won the MTV Movie Award in 2000.

Another milestone in Bob's career occurred 2 years later when CBS named part of its Los Angeles headquarters "the Bob Barker Promenade" to commemorate the show's 30th anniversary. Stage 33 at CBS Television City, which is one of the most historic sites in the industry, was re-dedicated as the "Bob Barker Studio," making Bob the first performer to whom CBS had ever dedicated a stage. It was from Stage 33 that Elvis Presley made his legendary first appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," and it has been the staging grounds for "The Price is Right" during its entire 35-year run on the network.

But long before he met fame, Bob met his future wife Dorothy Jo Gideon after graduating from Springfield Senior High. Barker would go on to pursue his studies at Drury College in Springfield, and was voted class president during his sophomore and senior years.

Like so many of his generation, the events of World War II would interrupt his studies. He trained as a Navy Air Corps fighter pilot, and returned to Drury College to graduate summa cum laude in 1947. He later served on the school's board of trustees from 1977 to 1980.

Bob Barker also started his entertainment career in Springfield, hosting a radio program on KTTS Radio, where he developed his clear, reverberating voice and his instant rapport with audiences.

For the past 30 years, Bob has devoted a significant portion of his time and resources to helping improve the lives of animals, appealing daily to viewers to have their pets spayed and neutered. In 1994, he established his DJ&T Foundation, which is named in memory of his wife and his mother. The mission of the foundation is to fund low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

In addition, Bob has given millions to establish endowments promoting animal protection law at some of the Nation's top law schools, including Harvard, Stanford, UCLA, Northwestern, Duke, Georgetown and Columbia. His work has also influenced other law schools to offer similar courses.

Bob Barker is a reflection of the character of southwest Missouri, where he learned early on the importance of self-discipline, an unrelenting work ethic, commitment to family and respect for others. It's also apparent from watching "The Price is Right" that Bob enjoys people, places and having fun. Through his contributions to the causes important to him, he has set an example for people committed to changing the circumstances of those less fortunate. And he has done it with dignity and style.

In his retirement, I wish Robert William Barker continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY CAP LIMIT

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to raise the cap on civil penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) currently may impose against a person or company for knowingly violating the statutes that the CPSC enforces. Currently, the CPSC is limited to assessing a mere \$1.825 million against anyone company for related violations.

This amount is entirely too low to serve as an effective economic deterrent, especially for large corporations, and to help ensure that companies follow the law with regard to safe products. For some companies, this cap amounts to little more than a cost of doing business—a figure they can just write off in deciding to follow the law, or not.

My legislation would raise the cap to \$20 million, a more realistic number to serve as a deterrent against violations and a more appropriate penalty for violations that have occurred.

Madam Speaker, raising the cap to an amount that better reflects today's economic realities will encourage manufacturers, among other things, to report promptly critical information about unsafe products, to recall defective products more quickly, and generally to comply more cooperatively with statutes designed to promote and ensure safe products in the American marketplace.

THANKING MR. PHIL NICHOLS FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, I rise to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to this institution. His list of accomplishments is far too lengthy to include in this tribute.

However, one major accomplishment of Phil's was his contribution to the team that upholstered the two chairs used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House for every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and above and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives as we wish him many wonderful years of happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS JOSHUA G. ROMERO,
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

PFC Joshua G. Romero was a proud United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on May 18, 2007, during combat operations in Tahrir, Iraq.

Assigned to the First Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas, Joshua enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character, bravery, and clear sense of patriotism.

Joshua is survived by his wife, son, father, mother, step-mother, and all of his sisters and brothers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Joshua's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and noble service to our country.

PFC Joshua G. Romero will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

RECOGNIZING MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT WIN HALLETT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT BILL SISSON FOR THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITING THYSSENKRUPP TO ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mobile Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their efforts in recruiting Thyssen Krupp to build a new steel mill in southwest Alabama.

Both Win and Bill worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to recruit this world class steel company to Alabama. In an unprecedented way, leaders from across Alabama and the region came together to promote the Alabama site.

Over a century ago, steel was Alabama's "cash crop" and steel manufacturing played a major role in Alabama's industrial revolution. Now in 2007, Alabama is one of the leading producers of automobiles in the United States. ThyssenKrupp's announcement brings Alabama's steel legacy full circle.

The impact of this new steel mill will be profound. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill promises at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, paying upwards of \$50,000 a year. Construction will require almost 30,000 employees who will earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. Such benefits would not be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, who in recent years has also played a lead role in other development projects including: Northrop Grumman/EADS choosing Mobile as the home for its plant to build tankers for the Air Force should the team be awarded the contract; investors choosing Mobile County as the future home of the \$600 million Alabama Motorsports Park, A Dale Earnhardt Jr. Speedway; and the RSA Battle House Tower, which is the tallest building along the Gulf Coast.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their outstanding accomplishments. I would like to offer each of them my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the First Congressional District for their continued contributions to the great State of Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA
VOLNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donna Volner, who is retiring from Clark County after 15 years of distinguished service.

Donna, who is from Los Angeles, CA, began her career in Missouri where she ini-

tially served as a clerk/typist for Missouri State Welfare. During her tenure with the Missouri State Welfare, Donna exhibited her tireless dedication and her great abilities and by the end of her 14 years of service. As a result of her commitment and dedication to serving others, Donna was named County Director.

Donna's work for Clark County began in the early 1990s, when she accepted a position as an eligibility worker for Clark County Social Services. In 1995, Donna transferred to the Neighborhood Justice Center, where she served the community for 12 years. After retiring from Clark County, Donna plans to continue her service to the Clark County Community as a volunteer for Clark County Social Services and at the local Ronald McDonald House.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Donna Volner. Her tireless work for Clark County has improved the lives of countless people. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEX BJORKLUND

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Tex Bjorklund.

During the 1950's, Tex Bjorklund was a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. While on patrol, he received a call to respond to a shooting at a nearby location. Upon arriving at the scene Mr. Bjorklund discovered the body of a 7-year-old girl who accidentally had shot and killed herself with a handgun found in the glove compartment of a car.

Deeply moved, Tex began working on a way to help prevent this kind of tragedy from recurring. As a result, he invented a device that would not only allow Americans to retain their right to keep and bear arms but also keep children from hurting themselves by using firearms. In fact, Tex was one of the first people to devise what we call today a "trigger lock".

Unlike advocates of sweeping gun restrictions, Mr. Bjorklund realized gun-related problems were not the weapons themselves but rather those who misuse them. In the wrong hands a weapon can be misused by those too young to understand the deadly force guns possess or by those who mean to do us harm.

Tex saw the need for a device that would ensure firearms are operated only for their intended use. Subsequently, Mr. Bjorklund began a quest to invent such a product. Today there are hundreds of different models of locks for many models of firearms.

We will never truly know how many lives Mr. Bjorklund saved, but it is fitting we honor him today for his invention.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT
GRADUATES OF PARAMUS'
D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT VISITA-
TION ACADEMY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, next week, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Visitation Academy. More than 40 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at Visitation Academy, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Robert Aparri, Daniela Chavez, Christen Connelly, Anthony De Ceglie, Nicholas Deutsch, Atene Di Luca, Annemarie Emmert, Thomas Frey Philip Garip, David Gerald, Laiba Khan, Rosanna Luna, Joseph Maliani, Alexander Marskorian, Jesse Mills, Christopher O'Byrne, Charles Overholser, Rene Polio, Tiffany Tramontana, Joshua Victoria, Dominique Balbin, Kris Daniel Berreta, Joseph Besserer, Cassandra Di Giovanni, Patrick Estanbouli, Marco Fontana, Kathleen Forero, Samantha Frey, Alexandra Garip, Carlyn Haynes, Chanel Jhin, Eric Joseph, Seung "Ian" Lee, Melisa Ljekocovic, Adrian Luna, Santino Manocchio, Raquel Massoud, Michael Munafo, Sina Nikmaram, Dominick Paiotti, Cammy May Redling, Christina Rubino.

HONORING ANDREW BARTLETT

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Bartlett who was chosen as one of the 10 national winners in a Risk Management Agency sponsored essay contest for FFA members. Andrew is a member of the Merino, Colorado Future Farmers of America Chapter and he has recently been elected President of the Merino FFA Chapter and President of FFA South Platte District for the 2007–2008 school year.

Andrew's parents are Charlie and Patty Bartlett and he is following the footsteps of his father who has been a farmer all of his life. Being a successful farmer today requires business and marketing skills, knowledge of advanced technology, and knowledge of crop and soil science. Farmers face the challenge of providing consumers with the safest, highest quality food at the lowest price. Andrew demonstrated his understanding of the demands and requirements of becoming a successful farmer in his essay detailing his farming experiences.

For his FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience, Andrew planted, irrigated and harvested alfalfa hay, hay millet and winter wheat. In his essay, Andrew described his decision making process in determining which crops to plant in an area where 6 years of drought have posed numerous challenges for farmers. Andrew also discussed his decisions about the use of fertilizers and chemicals to eliminate risk and the importance of sound financial management and diversification of his crops and choice of crops that were intended for different markets to expand his marketing choices. He explained the importance of using specific and accurate record keeping to assist in monitoring his financial standing. He is aware of the need to carefully analyze each of his decisions. He also understands the importance of being vigilant in minimizing his costs while staying informed of local markets.

Andrew has an impressive awareness of the many factors involved in becoming a successful producer in today's market. Andrew's family and his FFA advisor, Mr. Todd Everhart, are to be commended for their efforts in supporting, encouraging and mentoring Andrew and for their part in helping him develop the knowledge and skills necessary for him to be successful in his first farming endeavor.

Andrew is the future for a way of life which honors the land while helping to feed the world. I am proud to honor Andrew Bartlett for his success as a Future Farmer of America. My heartfelt congratulations to him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our veterans who have served our country valiantly throughout our history.

As we approach Memorial Day, we find ourselves in the middle of wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan—wars which continue to produce more veterans every day.

Today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are different from others in our history.

In today's wars, insurgents launch unconventional, horrific attacks on our troops, using devices like IED's—leaving some of our troops requiring ongoing special medical attention.

It is critical that we provide our veterans with the care they need and deserve in return for their bravery and sacrifice.

When I host military mothers this week, in my district in Orange County, California, I will thank them for their sacrifices, but I will also assure them that Congress will do all we can to take care of their children.

I thank all of our Nation's veterans for their bravery, their service, and their sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. DOCK
MONTERIA BROWN, SR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a very special friend, lifelong resident of Weldon, NC, outstanding citizen, and former North Carolina State House of Representatives, Honorable Dock Monteria Brown, Sr. In almost every household in Halifax and Northampton County, Dock Brown is well known for his dedication to community service and public education. Dock is a retired principal, teacher and basketball coach. He continues to influence the lives of thousands of area residents through his tireless devotion. On this First Congressional District 3rd Annual Weldon Constituent Service Day, I am so pleased to pay tribute to Dock Brown for such exemplary service and dedication to our community.

After graduating with a masters of school administration and supervision degree from North Carolina Central University, Dock taught and coached at Eastman High School. Later, he became the Principal of Pittman High School. He was honored as the Coach of the Year in the Roanoke Chowan Athletic Conference in 1956, 1961, and 1962 and received the highest honor in the North Coastal Plain Athletic Conference in 1972, 1973 and 1974. Dock inspired his students to pursue athletics and academics while emphasizing the value of moral character and community service. Dock often reflects on how proud he feels when former students return thanking him for his guidance.

Before his election to the North Carolina State House as Representative of the District in 1992, Dock was a community leader in Weldon. His involvement in community and civic affairs is surpassed by few. For example, he was appointed to the Selection Committee for Superior Court Judges in 1983; North Carolina Drug Advisory Council from 1975 to 1976 and Halifax County Board of Commissioners from 1984 to 1992. He was Director of the Regional L Council of Commerce from 1990 to 1992; Treasurer of the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials; and Chairman of Riverstone Counseling and Personal Development. He served on the Halifax County Health Board from 1981 to 1985 and Community Based Alternative Task Force as Chairman from 1989 to 1990. Additionally, he was an active member in local political and civic organizations such as the Halifax County Democratic Party; Halifax County Board of Elections; North Carolina Power; Halifax County Coalition for Progress; the Halifax County NAACP, and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service State Advisory Board. In addition to his dedication to North Carolina, Dock served in the United States Army in Korea for 2 years. He received an Honorable Discharge with the rank of Sergeant.

Dock has been married for over 50 years to the former Helen L. Brooks, a retired teacher. They have a daughter and son, Ivy and Dock Jr. Their son-in-law is LTC Terence Singleton and their grandson is Terry Singleton. Dock is currently a member of the Board of Com-

missioners for the Town of Weldon and has been a Deacon at the First Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids for the past 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to this outstanding citizen, the Honorable Dock Monteria Brown, Sr.

IN CELEBRATION OF BETTY PIA'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH, and rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Betty Pia, a wonderful mother, advocate, and community leader.

Betty has had an interesting life story. As a native of the state of Georgia, she was born on May 29, 1917. She moved to Madera, CA from Southern California in 1965 with her husband Joe. Betty and Joe have one daughter, Nancy, who they raised in the Central Valley of California. Betty has accomplished much in her life, but she is most known for her commitment and passion for taking care of others. As owner and operator of Magic Heart Guest Home, she has been in the residential care business for over 35 years.

As a community leader, Betty has been involved in the local Women's Improvement Club, Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, and was the 2005 Grand Marshall of the Old Timer's Day Celebration in Madera. As an advocate of the Valley, Betty has been involved in local, state, and national politics for most of her life.

In Georgia she got her start in politics by serving as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's nurse and developed a personal friendship with President Jimmy Carter, who she later was able to bring to the Valley during his term in office. Despite being a lifelong Democrat, Betty has truly been bipartisan in nature as she has always put people before politics. This is evident in the fact that Betty has served on Congressman RADANOVICH's Educational Committee and has been his delegate to the National Silver Hair Congress for 12 years. Betty has actively supported California Governors that range from former Governor Jerry Brown to former Governor Pete Wilson.

Despite pleas from family and friends to slow down, Betty still continues to operate her guest home and continues to be a driving force in local politics. Throughout the many roads she has traveled, we thank Betty for the many lives that she has touched along the way. It is for these reasons that we join Betty Pia's family and friends in wishing her a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

VETERANS OUTREACH
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that as Memorial Day approaches, this Congress is

taking concrete action to help our Nation's veterans.

This week we passed several pieces of legislation designed to both make it easier for veterans to get access to health care and to improve the quality of that care for those who are returning home from Iraq or Afghanistan.

Sometimes it's hard for veterans or their family members to be certain as to what benefits they qualify for and how to apply for them. The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 67) seeks to address this problem by mandating greater coordination between the federal and state governments on the availability of programs to help veterans. The bill authorizes \$75 million between 2007 and 2009 for intensified outreach efforts to veterans and their family members.

Due to geographical constraints, many veterans who return home will not have ready access to a military hospital within an easy driving distance of their homes. To help remedy this, Congress is taking action on the Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007 (H.R. 612). This bill extends from 2 years to 5 years the period of eligibility for VA health care for veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, regardless of whether or not a veteran has an established service-connected condition. As a result, veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will have more time to take advantage of VA health care whether or not they're awaiting the processing of a disability claim.

For many veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, access to routine medical care will not be enough. A large number of American soldiers have experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a result of being injured by road-side bombs or snipers. Passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act of 2007 (H.R. 2199), of which I am a co-sponsor, will help meet the special needs of these veterans.

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish:

A program to screen veterans for traumatic brain injury (TBI);

A comprehensive program for long-term care of post-acute TBI rehabilitation at four geographically dispersed polytrauma networks site and to establish TBI transition offices at these same sites to help better coordinate the delivery of health care and other services to veterans with moderate to severe TBI;

A registry of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who exhibit TBI symptoms;

Centers for TBI research, education, and clinical activities;

A committee on the care of veterans with TBI;

A pilot program for delivering readjustment counseling and mental health services through mobile vet centers; and

An Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans to help develop recommendations on how best to meet the needs of veterans living in rural areas.

Veterans with TBI will require special forms of rehabilitative care and follow up for the rest of their lives, and this bill will help ensure they get the care and services that they've earned.

Mr. Speaker, as America pauses this Memorial Day to remember those who've gone in harms way for the rest of us, Congress can express its thanks to America's veterans by passing these bills today.

JOHN FEINBLATT TESTIMONY
BEFORE CONGRESS—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respond to and support the testimony by Mr. John Feinblatt, Criminal Justice Coordinator for the City of New York before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Domestic Policy Subcommittee on May 10, 2007, regarding illegal guns and the Tiahrt amendment.

First, I applaud Michael Bloomberg for his leadership with reducing crime in New York City. Crime fighting is tough and it requires strong and bold leadership to be effective.

Second, I along with other Members of Congress formed the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Illegal Guns in January of 2007. This task force was formed during the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Summit held on January 23, 2007 in Washington, DC. The bipartisan task force is solely concerned about illegal guns and crime control. Let me be clear that the task force supports the Second Amendment and believes in protecting the rights of responsible and legal gun owners. We oppose the traffic in illegal guns which presents a danger to our society.

Third, to begin to address the problems associated with crime and illegal guns, members of the task force and other Members of Congress sent a letter to the leadership of the Commerce Justice and Science Subcommittee requesting Mr. MOLLAHAN and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN to change the language in the Tiahrt Amendment.

We support providing local law enforcement agencies with the tools and information they need to fight crime, particularly getting information on gun trace data.

Lastly, day in and day out, reports are aired in local and national media outlets about people being wounded and killed by guns. I'm certain that the vast majority of those incidents are committed with illegal guns. This is deeply troubling and disheartening to me. Action is needed and it is needed now.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS
OF SUGAR GROVE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School in Warren County, Pennsylvania are making great strides in promoting

the importance of physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle within their school's student body. As a 2006 recipient of the Keystone Healthy Zone School mini-grant, the elementary school has launched a Walking Club to incorporate nutrition and physical fitness into their learning environment.

This year, the Sugar Grove Elementary School Walking Club established a goal to cover 100 miles by the end of the school year. To achieve this, students dedicated the first 15 minutes of their daily recess to walking. Rain or shine, outside or inside, the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School kept their commitment to healthy well-being and rigorously incorporated exercise into their daily school routine.

To encourage students along the way, the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) awarded the Sugar Grove Elementary School with a walking shoe charm for every file mile mark they crossed. In addition, the outstanding leadership of the school's administrators and teachers as well as the guidance and support of local community volunteers helped to further motivate the students as they strived to achieve their goal.

On May 31, 2007 the Sugar Grove Elementary School will cross the finish line and achieve their goal of 100 miles. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in congratulating the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School for their grand achievement. I wish them all continued success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY KAY FEGAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shirley Kay Fegan on the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of dedicated service to the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Before rising to her present role as head of school at The Congressional Schools of Virginia, Ms. Fegan spent many years raising awareness about poverty and cultivating her passion for education.

Upon graduating from Georgetown University, Ms. Fegan traveled to Central America, where she worked with the Alliance for Progress to aid indigenous populations. Impassioned by this experience, Ms. Fegan returned to the Washington, DC area, where she developed programs through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to support migrant laborers. Ms. Fegan then applied the skills she had developed at OEO to the District of Columbia, helping to establish the first inner city HMO. Not only did this endeavor succeed in helping those affected by the 1968 riots, but the project eventually culminated in the opening of a 63,000 square foot facility which provides medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services.

In 1979, Ms. Fegan began working at The Congressional Schools of Virginia, where she has made a tremendous impact on students and faculty alike. Her presence was felt from the start as she applied her knowledge of the non-profit field to help restructure the institu-

tion and organize a volunteer school board. After becoming head of school in 1992, Ms. Fegan launched a series of initiatives that have led to the creation of strong athletic and community service programs. She has also been instrumental in incorporating information technology into the school's classrooms.

Whether Ms. Fegan was raising awareness on behalf of minority communities, making an impact on the District's inner city areas, or helping transform The Congressional Schools of Virginia into a first rate learning institution, Ms. Fegan has always dedicated herself to the serving others.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Ms. Fegan on all of her achievements. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Shirley for her past accomplishments and in wishing her continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. HOWARD E. LEFEVRE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Howard E. LeFevre.

Such a milestone is certainly deserving of recognition. Mr. LeFevre has been an eyewitness to some of the most tumultuous events in human history. Two World Wars, the birth and demise of the Soviet Union, the first flight of an airplane, and space travel are all examples of events that have transpired in his lifetime.

His life has been marked by his service and generosity. Service to others and service to the community are timeless American traditions and hallmarks of what has made our nation so great. Mr. LeFevre's leadership and strength of character have enhanced every organization under his care and positively influenced countless members of our community.

Mark Twain was right when he observed, "Only he who has seen better days and lives to see better days again knows their full value."

Please allow me to join his family and friends in wishing him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL STEWART NAVARRE, USMC

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of exemplary service that COL Stewart Navarre of the United States Marine Corps has given to this great country.

Colonel Navarre has served in many capacities since graduating Marine Corps Basic School in 1977. He served as Rifle Platoon Commander and Commanding Officer and as the Commander of the Fifth Marine Regiment in Iraq. In 2004 and 2005 he oversaw and coordinated the training and operations of the Iraqi Army and Police in the Marine sector of

Iraq. Colonel Navarre is currently assigned to Camp Pendleton where he lives with his wife, Yana Lahanis.

As Chief of Staff for all Marine Corps installations west of the Mississippi River, he is a trusted advisor and true advocate of our troops. Over the years he has selflessly dedicated his life to injured Marines and their families by promoting community involvement, assistance for disabled Veterans, and support to troop family members.

In his 30 years of military service Colonel Navarre has proven himself an able and willing leader. He has received the Legion of Merit, an award given for exceptional service in a time of war or peace. He also received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the third highest peacetime defense award.

On behalf of the people of the United States, whom Colonel Navarre spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL BEN DESILETS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LaHOOD. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

ELMWOOD: CITY MOURNS LOSS OF MARINE

ELMWOOD.—The city continued to grieve the loss of part of its "family" Wednesday, mourning the death of Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets, killed in action in Iraq.

"What people don't understand about Elmwood, it's a family. When we lose one person, we all lose," said Elmwood High School English teacher Cathy Meyers.

Nearly every flag in Elmwood was flying at half-mast to honor Desilets.

The 2004 Elmwood High School graduate and another Marine were killed Tuesday in the Anbar province of western Iraq, where Desilets was deployed with 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. Officials with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, NC., declined to comment on how he died except to say it was during combat operations.

A statement from the family stated Desilets, 21, had been behind the wheel of a Humvee when he died in the early morning hours. The other Marine was Cpl Julian M. Woodall, 21, of Tallahassee, Fla.

"He thought he was doing good," said his mother, Brenda Desilets. "I was proud of him. It made him grow up a lot."

Desilets had been in the Marines since September 2004. He joined, in part, to support his 3-year-old daughter, Kyra.

It was Desilets' second tour in Iraq.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HOGAN OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204 ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional educator in my district, Mr. Michael Hogan. For 30 years, Mr. Hogan has devoted his time and energy to the

students and families of High School District 204 in Cook County. Now, as he prepares for his retirement, I would like to thank him for his years of dedicated service.

Mr. Hogan's decision to become a teacher led him to college to complete his degree and education certification in 1978. To finance his education, Mr. Hogan took on a wide variety of service jobs, where he developed a disciplined attitude and strong work ethic that continues to guide his life. Mr. Hogan's awareness of the importance of family, friends, integrity, and career is the foundation of his professional success, and has led his colleagues and the communities he serves to hold him in the highest regard.

Mr. Hogan began his career in education as a special education teacher at Lyons Township High School, serving students who felt disconnected from their families, school, and peers because of emotional and behavioral disabilities. He provided the structure, empathic concern, and skill-building activities that his students needed to allow them an opportunity to develop trusting relationships with others and graduate from high school to become productive citizens. Mr. Hogan later became the Dean of Students in High School District 204. Again, his commitment to teaching the skills of responsible decision-making and his willingness to help individuals understand and assume responsibility for their actions resulted in a positive, life-changing experience for countless students.

For the final 15 years of his career, Mr. Hogan has served as Associate Principal, dedicating himself to his principle of "making the school work". His fairness, integrity, and meticulous attention to detail have impacted the daily lives of all those he has served: the faculty, staff, and families of Lyons Township High School.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Michael Hogan as an outstanding educator, and recognize his tireless efforts to educate and develop generations of confident, responsible, and disciplined students. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in preparing future generations for their challenges ahead. I thank and congratulate Michael for his service and dedication and wish him a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING THE TEXAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today in celebration of a truly historic achievement by the Texas City Police Department. On February 13th of this year, the Law Enforcement Recognition Committee Foundation Board officially voted to bestow the Recognized Status Award for Best Business Practices upon the Department, making the Texas City PD the first recipient of that award in the entire state.

The Texas Recognition Program is designed to assist law enforcement agencies meet their professional obligations in an efficient and effective manner. To be eligible for recognition under this program, an agency must meet or

exceed up to 152 Best Practices Standards in all aspects of law enforcement operations, including policies, procedures, equipment, facilities, and management.

Under the leadership of Chief Robert J. Burby, the employees of the Texas City Police Department have worked hard to merit this great honor. I believe it is fitting that, as Texas City Mayor Matt Doyle remarked at the State Certification Award Ceremony on March 22nd, the Texas City Police Department will be remembered as "The Model. The First for Others to Follow."

CONGRATULATING GORDON G. MARTIN ON BEING NAMED THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER'S 2007 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gordon Martin on being named the Montgomery Advertiser's 2007 Citizen of the Year and to offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people of Alabama for his exemplary philanthropic service to both the city of Montgomery and the State of Alabama.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Gordon has received several degrees, including a bachelor's and juris doctorate from the University of Alabama, as well as a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University.

His dedication to public service began early. While an undergraduate at Alabama, Gordon was elected president of the student government association and was inducted into several academic and student honor societies, including Capstone Men. As a graduate student studying in Washington, D.C., Gordon and several others founded DC Cares, which has grown to be the largest volunteer clearinghouse in our Nation's Capital.

Gordon's commitment to public service only continued when he moved to Montgomery, where he now serves as vice-president of Alabama Power's Southern Division. He currently sits on the boards of more than a dozen civic groups and charities. He is chairman of the Montgomery Riverfront Development Foundation, president of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, chairman-elect of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the boards of Huntingdon College and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Madam Speaker, Gordon G. Martin has dedicated his life to the service of others, all-the-while being a devoted husband and father to four children. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Gordon for his commitment to so many wonderful philanthropic missions.

I know his wife, Margret; his four children, Tucker, Bailey, Perry, and Lilly; and his many friends join with me in praising his many accomplishments. On behalf of all who have benefited from his good works, permit me to extend thanks for his many efforts in making Alabama a better place to live and work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY WADDELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Waddell, a Senior Television Anchor and community philanthropist.

Mr. Gary Waddell is a graduate of Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis, and attended the University of Minnesota. Mr. Waddell began his broadcasting career working as a disc jockey for a local radio station while in college. He was a reporter for WFLD-TV in Chicago, and covered the 1968 Democratic Convention as well as the federal trial of the Chicago Seven. In 1971, he moved to Las Vegas to work for KORK-TV as an anchor. Mr. Waddell is currently the Senior Television Anchor at KLAS-TV and has been an anchor with the station for over 20 years.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Waddell contributes his time to many charitable events and organizations in Southern Nevada, including the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, the Nevada Senior Games, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Kiwanis Teacher of the Year Awards and the annual Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign. Mr. Waddell also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mr. Waddell was honored with the Best Television Anchor Award by the Las Vegas Review Journal's "Best of Las Vegas" poll and along with his colleague Paula Francis, received the Best Anchor Team Award in the Women in Communications Electronic Media Awards.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Gary Waddell in his efforts to help make Southern Nevada a better place. I applaud his willingness to help others and wish him the best.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RACHEL CARSON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Rachel Carson and to commemorate her 100th birthday this Sunday, May 27.

Rachel Carson was an author, environmentalist, scientist, and poet. She was also a person with the courage to speak out against policies that harmed the environment.

In 1945, the U.S. Government was increasingly using chemical pesticides to control pests that were harming agricultural crops. Rachel Carson, living in Silver Spring at the time, was particularly alarmed by insecticide experiments in Patuxent, MD. She worried that the Government was using pesticides indiscriminately, with little regard for the damage they might cause to unintended targets, like other wildlife, or people who would eat the crops.

In 1957, her concerns became reality. Spraying for mosquitoes in Massachusetts, covering Long Island with a mixture of DDT

and fuel-oil to eradicate the gypsy moth, and a chemical war against fire ants in the South—all of these caused the widespread death of other animals in the areas.

Ms. Carson, a former scientist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a Masters degree in Zoology, and the author of two previous books, wrote a third, *Silent Spring*, about the pesticide problem. She described the issue in vivid terms—a happy town struck by a “strange blight” that stopped the birds from flying and silenced their voices.

Her message was not accepted quietly. Even the idea of the book, before it was published, was enough to cause the chemical industry, with the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to work to discredit Ms. Carson. She was called a “hysterical woman” and threatened with lawsuits. Her meticulous scientific work was described as “oversimplifications,” “downright errors,” and “scary generalizations.”

However, Rachel Carson did not back down from a fight. Even as she was battling cancer, Ms. Carson testified before Congress, stood up for her research and her work, and, with her eloquent words and confidence in the science behind them, rallied millions of Americans to her side.

Rachel Carson helped begin the modern environmental movement by helping Americans relate to complicated scientific issues. She also forced the Government to consider that even potentially beneficial practices like eliminating the bugs that ate our crops could have dangerous environmental effects. Her stand paved the way for others to join the cause. She spoke the first “inconvenient truth.”

When she died, she left a legacy for us to carry. The pesticide problem did not end with *Silent Spring*. Our environment is not safe from dangers. Agricultural run-off, sprawl and logging, and of course, global warming, are persistent threats that we must face with the same courage and tenacity Rachel Carson showed 40 years ago.

This year, Congress is prepared to meet those challenges head on. We are developing comprehensive global warming legislation to curb pollution and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

We all have the responsibility to follow Rachel Carson's example to be stewards of our environment and natural resources. We must ensure that we and the generations that follow us can, as Ms. Carson advised, “dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth.”

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY MARVIN JEROME SCARLETT

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I mourn the passing of a friend and fellow member of the law enforcement community, Marvin Jerome Scarlett of Henry County, Georgia. Sheriff's Deputy Scarlett was a patriot dedicated to upholding and defending the rule of law. He was a man of great courage, conviction and passion who lived a wonderfully fulfilling life surrounded by a loving family, close friends and admiring colleagues.

Sheriff's Deputy Scarlett was a college friend and a teammate; together we played beside each other on the football field at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida. Marvin reflected the very best qualities I would hope for in a teammate—he always put the team first and this dedication to his peers and community was a hallmark of Marvin's personality.

I mourn alongside the loving family of Marvin Jerome Scarlett, and honor his wife Latosha, and children Johnnie, Lottrenise, Lottriana, and Shi-Mon. During this difficult time, we will comfort the Scarlett family and pray for their wellbeing.

Like the God he faithfully served, this gentleman came and lived among us that we may have hope more abundantly. True to his faith, Sheriff's Deputy Scarlett would urge us to believe that his death does not represent an irrevocable finality, and he would assure us that he will live on in the good deeds he left behind. Indeed, no life could be more revered for having fulfilled his vocation as God's faithful steward. I will cherish the wonderful memories I have of Marvin Jerome Scarlett, a true friend and defender of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, between May 16, 2007, and May 22, 2007, I traveled to the Middle East to attend the World Economic Forum and to visit with troops from my district now serving in Iraq. As a result, I missed a number of votes. I take my voting responsibility very seriously; had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on the Andrews Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 364)

No on the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 365)

No on the Woolsey Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 366)

Aye on the Tierney Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 367)

No on the Franks Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 368)

No on the King Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 369)

Aye on the Moran Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 370)

Aye on the Holt Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 371)

Aye on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 372)

Aye on final passage of H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 373)

Yea on H. Res. 404, providing for consideration of the H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 374)

Yea on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 409, providing for consideration of the

conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government (Roll Call 375)

Aye on H. Res. 409, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government (Roll Call 376)

Yea on agreeing to the conference report S. Con. Res. 21 (Roll Call 377)

No on Bachus Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 378)

No on Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 379)

No on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 380)

Aye on the Kanjorski Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 381)

No on the Roskam Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 382)

No on the Garrett Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 383)

Yea on H.R. 698, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act (Roll Call 384)

Yea on H.R. 1425, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the “Staff Sergeant Marvin ‘Rex’ Young Post Office Building” (Roll Call 385)

No on the Feeney Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 386)

No on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 387)

No on the Sessions Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 388)

No on the Brady Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 389)

No on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 390)

No on the Doolittle Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 391)

No on the Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 392)

No on the Neugebauer Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 393)

Aye on the Neugebauer Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 394)

No on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 395)

Aye on final passage of H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 396)

Yea on S. 214, the Preserving United States Attorney Independence Act (Roll Call 397)

Yea on H.R. 2264, to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal (Roll Call 398)

Yea on S. 1104, a bill to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants (Roll Call 399)

Yea on H.R. 2399, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities (Roll Call 400)

Yea on H.R. 1722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the "Leonard W. Herman Post Office" (Roll Call 401)

Aye on Democratic Motion to Table Resolution Raising a Question of Privileges of the House (Roll Call 402)

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES CLARK WIDER, SR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James Clark Wider, Sr. for his tremendous contributions to the art world and to his country. Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. Wider served his country for 20 years in both the United States Army and Marine Corps. Today he is the owner of the Southwinds Art Gallery and Studio in Colorado Springs, where he not only creates exceptional artwork, but he also educates others about the importance of art to the maintenance of a culture and civilization.

Mr. Wider's extraordinary work clearly demonstrates his love of humanity and appreciation for variety in artwork. By capturing and conveying emotion in addition to riveting imagery, Mr. Wider offers an intimate glance at bygone eras and other worlds, bringing history to life. Scenes from Mr. Wider's childhood are the basis for his "Downhome Series" while the culture and customs of the Massai Tribe of Kenya are the inspiration for his African Heritage Series. Mr. Wider has used his talent to celebrate all the positive aspects of African-American heritage. Instilling the black community throughout the country with immense pride in its history, Mr. Wider believes that it is necessary to acknowledge the struggles of African Americans, for in so doing we also I acknowledge their strength and invincible will.

Mr. Wider's positive and celebratory attitude enables him to connect with and inspire people of all races and ages. Educating generations about art, he seeks to encourage all of us to become art lovers and collectors. Mr. Wider's numerous awards and recognitions include an honorary membership in the Austin, Texas Chapter of the NAACP, life membership of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a 1992 "Artist of the Year" Award from the Austin Chapter of the National Business League, and a listing in the premier edition of Who's Who Among Blacks in Colorado Springs.

The nation as a whole has profoundly benefited from his influence. In him, the African-American community possesses an exceptional role model and the art world has a true champion. The people of Colorado's Fifth Congressional District are privileged that this great American has chosen to call our community home; Mr. Wider is an asset to the art world and to his country, and we are profoundly thankful for his numerous contributions.

TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE UNITY TOUR

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Police Unity Tour which honors the memory and courage of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty and raises money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Over one thousand police officers from around the country have completed the tour, four hundred of whom left from the Township of Morris, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent and rode over 300 miles to the Memorial in Washington.

In May 1997 the Police Unity Tour was organized by Officer Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Police Department, with the hope of raising public awareness of police officers who have died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices.

The tour started in 1997 with 18 riders on a four day fund-raising bicycle ride from Florham Park, N.J. to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington. This past year they had over one thousand riders nationwide who made the trip. Inspired by their commitment and their motto, "WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO DIED," the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund has selected their organization to be the sponsor of the Museum's Hall of Remembrance.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Police Unity Tour on their 11th Anniversary of honoring fallen law enforcement heroes!

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF TIPTON, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Tipton, Kansas for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Most communities in rural America would like to see future generations return home and keep alive its way of life. Tipton residents are no different. They want to provide the next generation the opportunity to continue the quality rural lifestyle the previous generation afforded them. The difference is that this community knows its future is in its hands. So they have volunteered these hands to construct what is needed to attract and retain the youth who, too often, leave for the "city."

In the summer of 2003, the parents and students of Tipton were faced with the impending consolidation of their elementary school—leaving the students with up to a 20 mile bus drive and the town with one less way to attract and retain businesses and the families they employ. Although the long drive would be taxing on the students and parents, convenience wasn't the catalyst for the action that was about to take place that summer. Mayor Adri- an Arnoldy was among those who knew what

losing the school would mean to Tipton. He told me, "Our parents faced the prospect of their children being enrolled in three different schools in three different towns. Losing our elementary school was not an option because we knew that as schools leave communities, so go the communities themselves."

Thinking ahead about the future effects of losing the elementary school, the town voted to create its own school—the Tipton Christian School, a private K-6 facility. Those committed hands of Tipton's residents worked together and completed the new school in less than two months with all volunteer labor. Private donations funded the cost of the new facility and continue to finance school operations to date. The construction and funding of a new school in 41 days is just one example of how this community stands up against the prevailing winds of consolidation and urbanization plaguing rural America. I can only imagine that the residents of Tipton will make sure this school succeeds in the same way Tipton Catholic Senior High School has since 1919.

During a period when small towns throughout the country have experienced the shuttered doors of a main street no longer able to keep customers in the shops, efforts like these have helped Tipton maintain an active business community. Hollerich Construction is an example of a business matching the commitment made by residents. The company has expanded its presence in Tipton, along with Great Plains Manufacturing who recently doubled the size of its agricultural equipment manufacturing plant.

Tipton residents have shown character, determination and the high value they place on family, friends and neighbors. It is their hope that these ideals will be an example to some of the troubled boys at the recently opened Tipton Academy, housed in the closed elementary school building. Boys who come to the academy are there to experience a different setting, a positive one. One way to do that is to have the boys involved in the community. They contributed to the construction of a kitchen, eating and serving area in the new community building that Tipton residents use for all sorts of community events and celebrations.

For rural communities to survive and prosper, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Tipton are an example of how hard work, vision and involvement can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Tipton is a developing success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) on the occasion of its 90th anniversary this month. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the army selected

Dayton as the location to increase our Nation's air forces. Three military installations, Wilbur Wright Field, the Fairfield Aviation General Supply Depot, and McCook Field, were opened in 1917 to assist the military with aviation development. The use of Wilbur Wright Field as a government installation dates back to May of 1917, 90 years ago this month.

As the birthplace of aviation, Dayton, Ohio is proud to be the home of one of the largest Air Force installations in the world. In fact, in 1924, Dayton citizens purchased over 4,500 acres of land for \$425,000 and provided the deeds to President Calvin Coolidge for the construction of a new aviation engineering center that later became part of WPAFB. The excellent and groundbreaking work of air development at WPAFB distinguishes the base as a landmark of tremendous historical importance. Dayton has been involved in flight from the Wright B Flyer to the F-22, the current stealth fighter.

The leadership responsibilities and innovative research currently undertaken at WPAFB are essential to the success and future air superiority of the United States Air Force (USAF). WPAFB serves as the headquarters for the branch's worldwide logistics system and all USAF systems development and procurement; the headquarters for National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), the Department of Defense's primary source for foreign aerospace intelligence; an aeronautical engineering center; a major research laboratory; the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT); the second largest USAF medical center; and is crowned by the National Museum of the USAF, the largest military aviation museum in the world.

Madam Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will join me in honoring the 90th anniversary of WPAFB. The renowned work at WPAFB is considered by many as the backbone of the USAF and essential to our country's national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was detained in a meeting in the Senate during rollcall vote 398. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge one of our key allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—as it celebrates its 89th Annual Republic Day on May 28. After the fall of the Russian Empire, Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence on May 28, 1918. Unfortunately, the Red Army invaded Azerbaijan on April 28, 1920 preempting its reach for liberty for seventy years.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom came at a heavy price following the 1990 inva-

sion of Baku by Soviet troops resulting in the death of more than one hundred thirty civilians. Moscow's rule, however, grew weaker and by 1991 popular pressure led the country to declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on October 18, 1991 the Constitution was approved.

Given past Soviet rule and the difficult geopolitical environment, Azerbaijan's determination to look westward for its political and economic allies should be applauded.

Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer the United States support in the Global War on Terror, providing airspace and airport use for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq. Though bilateral cooperation on terrorism issues between the United States and Azerbaijan predates September 11, 2001, our relations were strengthened following Azerbaijan's immediate and unwavering support in the Global War on Terror.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic, and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

During the last decade, Azerbaijan has implemented structural reforms and adopted numerous legislative changes to pave the way for further integration within the global economy. It has also been moving toward a more diversified economy that would achieve sustainable growth and meet the social and developmental needs of its population.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994, Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to help diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated while the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed at the end of this month. In addition, in March 2007 Azerbaijan and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Security in the Caspian region aimed at strengthening our already strong cooperation with respect to the supply and transport of Caspian energy resources and bolstering energy security in the West.

Let us today congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its forthcoming 89th Anniversary celebrations and continue to develop this important friendship between our two countries.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARCIA NEEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcia Neel, who, after serving the Clark County School District for nearly 30 years, will retire this year. She is an outstanding educator whose commitment to our community has made a profound difference to the students of Clark County School District.

Marcia currently serves as the Supervisor of the Secondary Music Program of the Clark County School District, where she oversees the music education of over 50,000 students. Marcia is a leader in the field of music education and she has served as President of the Nevada Music Educators Association on two separate terms. Marcia has also served as President of the Nevada Choral Directors Association and is a member of the National Executive Board of the National Association for Music Education (MENC). Marcia has also been recognized for her distinguished work in the classroom. In 1993, Marcia received the Nevada Music Educator of the Year Award. She was also recognized in 1993 by the Disney Channel as the National Performing Arts Teacher of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Marcia. Her passion and love of teaching have greatly enhanced the educational experience of many students in the Clark County School District. I thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING NEAL WADE AND THE ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR BEING RATED NUMBER ONE BY SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Neal Wade and the Alabama Development Office for being selected as the winner of the 2006 Competitiveness Award by Site Selection magazine.

This is the second consecutive year that the Alabama Development Office has received this prestigious award. The award is being given to the Alabama Development Office based on its success in recruiting new investments and jobs to Alabama.

In 2006, a total of 586 companies undertook projects to set up operations or to expand existing facilities in Alabama. These projects represent more than \$3.1 billion in capital investment. The new and expanding businesses will also create approximately 24,780 jobs.

ADO is off to a fast start in 2007. Just this month, Alabama learned it will be the site of one of the largest economic development projects in the country. ThyssenKrupp, one of Germany's leading steel industries, announced it will build its \$3.7 billion steel plant in Alabama. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill will create at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, and

the construction of the mill will require the services of over 30,000 workers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both Neal Wade and all of those at the Alabama Development Office for being named the best in the Nation for 2006 by Site Selection magazine. For these and all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and to the international business community.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE GREECE IN THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to include Greece as a program country in the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program permits nationals from certain countries who are traveling to the United States for tourism or business to stay for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Currently, 27 countries are included in the Visa Waiver Program. To participate, countries must meet several criteria including reciprocal visa-free travel for U.S. citizens, secure machine-readable biometric passports, and a maximum allowable 3 percent refusal rate of U.S. non-immigrant visitor visa applications.

Of the original 15 European Union nations, Greece is the only member not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program. However, Greece has met the current criteria mandated for entry into the Visa Waiver Program, including the 3 percent refusal rate. As of January 1, 2007, Greek passports issued prior to January 1, 2006, are no longer considered valid for travel. Greek nationals are traveling with new, machine-readable passports that are produced using state-of-the-art biometric technology to meet the highest possible security standards and specifications.

Greece is a critical ally of the United States. While I hope that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security will move forward to include Greece in the Visa Waiver Program, I believe that the legislation that I am introducing today is an important step in making that happen.

Joining me in introducing this legislation are Representatives GUS M. BILIRAKIS, ZACK SPACE, JOHN SARBANES, ROBERT WEXLER, SHELLEY BERKLEY, JAMES MCGOVERN, DIANE WATSON, HENRY BROWN, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, DONALD PAYNE, FRANK PALLONE, THADDEUS MCCOTTER, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JESSE JACKSON, MICHAEL McNULTY, EARL BLUMENAUER, BARBARA LEE, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, PATRICK KENNEDY, SCOTT GARRETT, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, LINDA SANCHEZ, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, ROBERT ANDREWS, JAMES LANGEVIN, JOSEPH CROWLEY, and ANNA ESHOO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 364 on Andrews of New Jersey amendment on H.R. 1585, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RYAN J. BAUM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen Marine from my district, Sergeant Ryan J. Baum of Aurora. Sergeant Baum was killed May 18th during a firefight in Karmah, Iraq.

Sergeant Baum was killed in the line of duty a day before he was scheduled to return to Colorado—where he planned to rejoin his wife Amber for the birth of his first child who they planned to name Leia. He was just 27 years old.

Sergeant Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division. He attended basic training in Oklahoma before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, where he met his wife. He then went on to Fort Benning, Georgia where he graduated from Ranger school.

Ryan grew up in Aurora, where he attended Smoky Hill High School and played on the lacrosse team.

Amber—who was trained as an Army medic herself—told the Rocky Mountain News that Ryan was quite passionate about his role as an emergency care Sergeant; and I would ask that the text of that news article be included in the RECORD.

Amber told the News, "He loved the challenge. In combat medicine you have to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out."

Madam Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to Ryan's wife Amber, his parents Richard and Dana, his brother Jason, and his sister, Mande. He will no doubt be missed and loved by all who knew and loved him.

Sergeant Baum served his country bravely, fighting for freedom and democracy against the forces of tyranny and oppression. Americans should never forget his service or sacrifice, and the nation will forever owe a great debt of gratitude to Ryan and his family.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 23, 2007]

SOLDIER "WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST FATHER"
MEDIC DIES IN IRAQ, WAS SET TO FLY HOME FOR
BIRTH OF 1ST CHILD

(By Hector Gutierrez)

When Amber Baum gives birth to her daughter, she'll also be delivering the dream her husband didn't see come true.

Sgt. Ryan J. Baum, 27, was scheduled to fly home from Iraq on Saturday to be with his

wife for the birth of their first child, whom they decided to name Leia.

"He just flipped when he found out he was going to be a father," Amber said Tuesday. "From day one this man wanted me to have his baby."

The paratrooper who was raised in Aurora never made it home. He was killed Friday, one day before his scheduled return. He died from wounds he suffered during a battle near Kalsu, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

"He would have been the best father that God could have placed on this earth," said his wife, who is staying with her parents in Gettysburg, Pa. "His spirit is going to live through his daughter."

Amber also finds comfort in knowing her husband saved lives as an emergency care sergeant, or medic.

"You need to save a life in less than a second, and he loved the challenge. In combat medicine you had to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out," said Amber, who also was trained as an Army medic.

Baum grew up in Aurora and attended Smoky Hill High School, where he played on the lacrosse team. His wife described her husband as the typical "Colorado man."

"I'd never met anybody from Colorado, and he was the definition of a Colorado man," she said. "He loved camping, he loved climbing, he loved kayaking, boating and fishing."

Baum also had loved the military since he was a child.

He was attending college when he was informed in 2003 that he had been accepted into the Army.

"He thought it was the great thing to do, he just thought it was the right thing to do to serve his country," Amber, 21, said.

Baum went to basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, Texas, where he met Amber. The couple carried on a long-distance relationship when Baum went to Fort Benning, Ga., where he graduated from Ranger school with high marks.

"He was always an honor graduate, which was someone who exceeds above everybody else," Amber said.

"He was extremely strong, very physically fit."

After graduating from Ranger school, Baum was accepted into the Special Operations Combat Medic School at Fort Bragg, N.C., considered the Army's elite medical training facility.

"You could compare it to Top Gun in flight school," his wife said.

He graduated from Special Operations Combat Medic School in 2005, the year he and Amber got married. The two were then reassigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in June 2005.

Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

In 2006 he underwent extensive medical training and preparation for his deployment to Iraq. Baum was selected to be senior instructor of the Alaska branch of pre-Ranger school.

On Oct. 7, 2006, he left for Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Baum is survived by his parents, Richard and Dana; brother, Jason; and sister, Mande.

The family has established the "SGT Ryan John Baum Memorial Fund" through US Bank. All proceeds will go to help Baum's wife and their daughter's college education.

ON THE PASSING OF BOWIE CITY
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM AUGUS-
TUS ALESHIRE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a man that meant a great deal to the people of Maryland's Fifth Congressional District—16-year Bowie City Council veteran, William Augustus Aleshire.

Bill's life was one of service. He served his country in the Air Force through two tours in Vietnam. He served his neighbors as a Washington, DC, police officer for more than 20 years. And he served his community as a member of the Bowie City Council—and more significantly, as an impassioned leader who always thought of others before thinking of himself.

Bill was a man that truly understood what public service is all about. Those who knew him best know that he had a fondness for costumes. At Christmas, he made appearances throughout the city of Bowie as Santa Claus. At Easter, he visited local parks and hospitals as the Easter Bunny. And he even made public appearances as "McGruff the Crime Dog" to help keep Bowie's children on the right track.

I always thought of Bill as a partner in our shared pursuit to enhance the quality of life in the city of Bowie—and I know that his boisterous personality and impeccable character will be profoundly missed throughout all of Prince George's County, Maryland.

My condolences—and those of a grateful community—go out to Bill's wife, Clara, to his daughter, Emily, and to everyone whose life was touched by William Augustus Aleshire during this most difficult of times.

HONORING MRS. JUDY HANLEY OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT 105 ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Mrs. Judy Hanley. In June, Mrs. Hanley will retire from School District 105 after 48 years of distinguished service and leadership. Her remarkable contributions to students, colleagues, and the entire District 105 community will always be remembered and her presence will be sorely missed. As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Hanley for her dedication and commitment to providing quality education.

Mrs. Hanley will retire from Hodgkins Elementary School as Assistant Principal. Throughout her impressive career, she has taken an active role in the leadership of the school. Specifically, Mrs. Hanley has served on the curriculum committee, the professional development committee, and the staff development committee. In addition to Mrs. Hanley's committee positions, she has also served

as President of the School District 105 Teacher's Association. Together, these combined efforts have helped to make School District 105 a better place for staff to work and children to learn.

Mrs. Hanley's tireless work has also benefited the local Hodgkins community. She has played a leading role in organizing the local book fair and has acted as a sponsor of the annual pumpkin decorating contest—a Hodgkins tradition. In 1999, the Whispering Oak Girls Scout Council recognized Mrs. Hanley with the Woman of Distinction Award in Education and, in 2000, the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce honored Mrs. Hanley with the Millennium Award. In addition to these special awards, she was also a 1999 and 2000 Legacy Award Finalist.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Judy Hanley for her half-century of service as a dedicated educator. Throughout her career, she has shown a strong commitment to teaching and to her community. As a result of her passion, her work has significantly impacted the lives of countless students, parents, and fellow teachers alike. I thank Judy for her lifelong service to her community and wish her a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day, Congress has a duty to honor our veterans not just with our words but with our deeds. I was proud to join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle yesterday to pass legislation that will help provide our courageous veterans with the resources they have earned and deserve.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation that address some of the new challenges facing veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

H.R. 2199, The Traumatic Brain Injury/Rural Veterans Outreach, ensures that our veterans are properly screened for Traumatic Brain Injury and receive the appropriate treatment. More than half of combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have associated brain injuries, often due to improvised explosive devices. The legislation also expands VA resources to provide rural communities with "mobile vet centers" for mental health services and benefits outreach.

H.R. 612, The Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act helps ensure soldiers with mental health conditions that are often not immediately diagnosed, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, are treated by making them eligible for health care due to combat service for five years after leaving active duty.

H.R. 67, The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act (H.R. 67) allows the VA to partner with state and local governments to reach out to veterans and their families in ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned.

H.R. 2239, The Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act extends eligibility for rehabilitation benefits from the Veterans' Affairs Department.

Finally, H.R. 1470, The Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act requires that chiropractic care and services be provided to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

Since January, the new Democratic-led Congress has worked to honor veterans by improving veterans' health care, strengthening benefits for our men and women in uniform today, and providing long-overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. I was proud to support the measures we passed yesterday as well as any legislation that will improve benefits and services for our brave men and women in uniform and our veterans.

IN HONOR OF TOM FAT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Fat, a dedicated civic leader in San Diego. Tom passed away on May 17, 2007 and is survived by his wife Jenny, daughter Monica, sisters Jean Ann Lai and Mable Moffatt of Sacramento, brothers Dr. Kenneth Fat and Jerry Fat of Sacramento, and two grandchildren.

Tom was born in 1940 and grew up working in the family restaurant in Sacramento, California. The Fat City chain is anchored by Frank Fat's, which became a hangout for politicians and lobbyists in our State's capital. At an early age his father, Frank Fat, instilled in him and his siblings a strong work ethic and commitment to civic involvement.

Tom graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in business, attained a law degree from Hastings School of Law and received his master's of law in taxation at New York University. He also served for 3 years as a captain in the U.S. Army.

After practicing law in Los Angeles for a few years, Tom joined his family in Sacramento to help operate their successful restaurant business. In 1976 Tom visited San Diego to research business opportunities and moved there the following year to operate China Camp, which fused Chinese cuisine with Western style cooking, and Frank Fat's, which was renamed Fat City Steakhouse—still a popular place for local government leaders to come together.

The success of Tom's restaurants assisted in the growth and development of downtown San Diego and the revival of the Little Italy community, which helped to link the area between San Diego International Airport and the city center.

Not only was Tom's entrepreneurship inspiring to all those around him, but his civic leadership was truly commendable. As an avid community leader, Tom served as the Chairman of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, President of the San Diego Restaurant Association, Director of the San Diego Film Commission and as a member of the Little Italy Association.

He worked in the Asian Pacific Islander community to mentor youth to encourage their participation in civic affairs and the political process. Tom developed strong relationships with political leaders of both parties and built

a reputation as a consensus builder on many local issues.

Tom is best remembered for his humanitarian efforts and his enthusiasm as a tireless advocate for San Diego. His carefree nature and long white hair made him stand out in a crowd. Although he is gone now, Tom left an inspiring legacy for entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and youth in our community.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Tom Fat's family and honor his life and contributions to the San Diego community. He was admired by so many people for so many reasons, and the impact he had on San Diego will stay alive in the many positive changes he helped to achieve and the memories of him which we will never forget. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to honor such a remarkable individual.

CONGRATULATING SWEDESBERG
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY ON
THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, located in Upper Merion, Pennsylvania on their 65th anniversary.

Established in 1942 as a civilian defense in the face of World War II, the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company has become an essential and respected service institution in my district, providing unrivaled emergency response and civic services. Its first engine, a Hale-Ford 500 GPM pumper was purchased for just \$5,000. Today a comparable truck would cost around \$400,000.

Over the course of the past 65 years we have seen a distinct evolution in the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, but one thing has remained constant—the Company's volunteers have been steadfast in their service and dedication to the community.

As we look back on the past 65 years, there are some important dates to note:

May 11, 1942: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company is incorporated by Montgomery County. Its first meetings are in Michael Brodowski's Tavern and Stanley Knasiak's barbershop.

1946: Swedesburg's Ladies Auxiliary is established by company president, Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr.

1951: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company's original fire house is built on Church Road thanks to generous contributions from James Lees & Sons, among many others.

1953: The development of the PA Turnpike Delaware River Extension charges right through Swedesburg's back yard and the firehouse, along with 32 homes, are razed for its development.

1954: Volunteers and the community rally to construct the present-day firehouse on Jefferson Street.

1960s: The Junior Fireman's Corps is established for volunteers between the ages of 17 and 21.

1975: The Company establishes a Vehicle Rescue Unit with its first "Jaws of Life".

1983: Swedesburg is among the first companies in Pennsylvania to be certified in vehicle rescue.

1986: Swedesburg establishes its water rescue team with the purchase of its first boat and hours of training for 30 personnel.

1991: An addition to the existing firehouse is completed, with a larger engine room and improved radio room, a new meeting room and offices.

One of the greatest services in my district comes from first responders who are on the frontlines protecting us. They are required to balance the demands of their service with their families and full-time careers. I ask that everyone please join me in congratulating the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company and all of the men and women that have helped serve their community over the past 65 years.

HONORING MINNESOTA'S EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS—EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the emergency service workers of Minnesota. This week is National Emergency Services Week and I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary dedication and service of Minnesota's Emergency Medical Dispatchers, First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Emergency Department Nurses and Physicians and introduce this brief proclamation.

Whereas, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Now, therefore, I—KEITH ELLISON—Congressman for the Fifth District of Minnesota hereby proclaim the week of May 20–26, 2007, as National Emergency Services Week.

IN HONOR OF HARRY AND
BARBARA KRAMER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 2 true western Pennsylvania heroes,

Mr. Harry Kramer and his wife, Barbara. "Uncle Harry," as he is known to generations of campers, was Executive Director of YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Fombell, Beaver County for 37 years, before retiring this spring. On June 2, hundreds of campers, parents, counselors, and others touched by Harry's kindness and selflessness will return to Camp Kon-O-Kwee to honor Uncle Harry and his wife, Aunt Barbara, and to dedicate the brand new dining hall as "Kramer Hall."

Harry and Barbara have devoted their lives to helping others. Together they turned Camp Kon-O-Kwee from a ramshackle boys camp slated for closure into the country's premier camp for special needs children and adults. Kon-O-Kwee also serves as a place for at-risk youth retreats, senior citizen camping trips, school field trips, and parent-child weekend campouts. Over 17,000 campers come to Kon-O-Kwee each year, and Uncle Harry and Aunt Barbara's warm smiles and big hearts have made an indelible imprint on each and every one.

Madam Speaker, these 2 western Pennsylvanians are shining examples of what the rest of us should strive to be. They have worked tirelessly for almost 40 years to create a magical place that Uncle Harry has called "heaven on earth." And for the thousands who have passed through Camp Kon-O-Kwee—be it for a day, a weekend, or a week—it has been exactly that.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend to them my deepest thanks for their years of service to western Pennsylvania and I wish them the very best in their well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING CHANGING
HANDS BOOKSTORE PUBLISHER'S
WEEKLY BOOKSELLER OF THE
YEAR 2007

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the awarding of the Publisher's Weekly Bookseller of the Year for 2007 to my favorite bookstore, Changing Hands, in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

Changing Hands bookstore is a model for independent businesses. It has not only survived, but thrived in the age of "chain stores". Changing Hands regularly hosts teens' and kids' programs, features book signings by local and national authors, and is a meeting place for book groups. President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, as well as Senator HILLARY CLINTON are just a few of the notable authors who have been featured at events at this Tempe institution.

Changing Hands has been a Tempe destination since it first opened its doors in 1974. It has attracted a loyal following that draws an eclectic group of individuals whose interests range from New Age to older age to teen age.

The business thrives because owners Gail Shanks, Bill Sommer, and Suzie Brazil are committed to innovation, employee participation and customer service. Without them, the community would have an intellectual void.

If one were to choose a place in Tempe to represent what the community should value,

that place would be Changing Hands bookstore.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 U.S.
PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2007 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After taking a preliminary exam, 200 high school students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a ten-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving hosted by the University of Maryland. Five of these exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in a tremendous international competition in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Isfahan, Iran.

The 24 members of the 2007 team include: Erik Anson, Sophie Cai, Tucker Chan, Joseph Chu, Benjamin Connell, Kenan Diab, Nicholas Dou, YingYu Gao, Kenneth Hu, Rui Hu, Sunny Kam, Jenny Kwan, Jason LaRue, Allen Lin, Andy Lucas, Sarah Marzen, Kynan Rilee, Aleksandra Stankiewicz, Philip Streich, Arvind Thiagarajan, Philip Tynan, Haofei Wei, James Yang, and Danny Zhu.

I commend the American Institute of Physics and the American Association of Physics Teachers for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students. I know that for every finalist represented here, there are numerous colleagues and parents who have provided tireless support to help them reach this point. As a former physics professor, I also am well-aware that this level of achievement is usually backed by a host of exceptional teachers dedicated to their profession and to educating individual students. I hope each of the Olympiad finalists will make a point of thanking and recognizing the teachers that have guided them over the years.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) practitioners are very important to our national competitiveness. I imagine that many of these students will become leaders in the science and engineering community in the future. While they represent the pinnacle of physics achievement in high school, I believe Congress must work to improve the opportunities in STEM education for all students, even those who may not choose scientifically-based careers. Making sure our teachers are well-equipped to teach science and math is very important in fostering the interest of future generations in these subjects because every job will soon require a basic understanding of math and science.

I am very pleased that these students take time away from their purely scientific endeavors to meet with their legislators in Washington. I believe it is very important for scientists to engage with politicians regarding the impact that science and technology can have on issues such as national security, climate

change, and healthcare. Furthermore, I hope some of these students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world. I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top 5 the best of success as they represent the United States in Iran.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF FERS
REDEPOSIT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there is no debate over whether the Federal Government is facing a workforce shortage crisis—it is. In 10 years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

I am writing to ask for your support for a bill I will re-introduce that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the Federal Government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS.

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work for the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to reentering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the Federal Government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to government service.

Now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING CHRIS CLARK'S 41-YEAR
CAREER AT WTVF-CHANNEL 5

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Clark on his retirement from WTVF-Channel 5 after 41 years of service.

During a segment before his retirement on Wednesday, May 23, after the 6 p.m. newscast, Chris seemed surprised at the outpouring of well wishes he received via e-mail from hundreds of viewers who considered him as part of their family after all the years he had been on air. Indeed, it's rare for a person in broadcast to stay in one place for 41 years.

Chris will be remembered for encouraging Channel 5 to switch from recorded interviews to live on-site reports, making the station only the second in the Nation to use the technology at that time. But he may be more famous for giving Oprah Winfrey her first television job in 1974.

Chris, I wish you well as you head into retirement. I understand you are a self-described movie nut and that you will soon take a well-deserved vacation in Florida with your family. I hope you have many more opportunities to travel and watch movies in your unscripted life.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S
TRAUMA SYSTEMS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the important role of our Nation's trauma systems. On March 27, 2007, this Chamber passed legislation I sponsored to reauthorize the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act. This important legislation was signed into law on May 3, 2007. However, while the bill awaited the President's signature, the Nation observed the critical importance of trauma systems and the role they played in ensuring that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine received the quick and efficient health care he needed to survive injuries he sustained during an April 12 traffic accident.

I would request that this New York Times article entitled "In Corzine's Fast Recovery, Doctors Cite Timing, Grit and Luck" be inserted in the RECORD. This article outlines the important role that the Camden, New Jersey area's trauma system—and particularly its Level I Trauma Center, Cooper University Hospital—played in Governor Corzine's treatment.

[From The New York Times, May 13, 2007]

IN CORZINE'S FAST RECOVERY, DOCTORS CITE
TIMING, GRIT AND LUCK

(By Lawrence K. Altman)

An article on Sunday about the extensive medical care that Gov. Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey received at Cooper University Hospital in Camden after a traffic accident on April 12 misstated the date of Mr. Corzine's release in some copies. It was April 30, not May 1.

CAMDEN, N.J.—Dr. Steven E. Ross was about to perform an appendectomy shortly before 7 p.m. on a routine Thursday when a nurse paged him to say the governor of New Jersey had suffered an open femur fracture and severe chest injuries and was about to land on the helipad atop Cooper University Hospital here.

"Quite honestly, I didn't believe it," said Dr. Ross, who directs the level one, or most highly accredited, trauma center at the hospital. But he immediately alerted security guards and the public relations staff so they would "keep people out of my hair" and help him avoid "the distractions" that can interfere with the care of V.I.P.'s.

Dr. Robert F. Ostrum was watching the Phillies-Mets game on television at his home just across the Delaware River in Philadelphia that Thursday, April 12, when an announcer interrupted to say that Gov. Jon S. Corzine was being flown to Cooper.

In his 25-year career, Dr. Ostrum, the chief trauma orthopedist at the hospital, had repaired about 800 femur fractures, including 200 open ones. He called his colleagues and said he would come in, in part because of the patient's prominence.

So began the medical odyssey to which Mr. Corzine, 60, owes his life. He was not wearing a seat belt while riding in a state vehicle clocked at 91 miles per hour and nearly became one of the more than 43,000 people a year who die in car crashes in the United States.

Instead, after 11 days in intensive care, eight of them on a ventilator, and three operations on his leg, Mr. Corzine was released from the hospital on April 30 and resumed his official duties as governor six days later.

In their first extensive interviews, doctors and nurses who treated Mr. Corzine here attributed his amazingly fast recovery to his speedy arrival at a trauma center, his grit in overcoming severe pain to begin rehabilitation, and luck.

Mr. Corzine still needs strong painkillers that can impair judgment, but he has not allowed the doctors to disclose the drugs' names or share his X-rays or medical chart. He has also refused *The New York Times's* repeated requests for interviews.

But in lengthy conversations with this reporter, who is a physician, the medical team that saved his life revealed many new details about Mr. Corzine's injuries, his treatment and the first three and a half weeks of his recovery.

Over the first 24 hours in the hospital, Mr. Corzine received 12 pints of blood, an amount roughly equivalent to the total blood volume in his body. Most of the bleeding was internal, into muscles and the chest from 15 broken bones.

But because the blood was replaced as he lost it, he avoided shock, a key way in which immediate trauma care saves lives.

The jagged femur had torn through his thigh muscles and skin to create an open wound six and a half inches long—"By our standards it was pretty large," Dr. Ostrum said—and to repair it, doctors had to insert a titanium rod through the center of the broken bones and screw them in place.

When Dr. Ostrum found that the longest rod was too short for Mr. Corzine's femur, he added an extension. "I didn't shorten him," he recalled, smiling.

The day after the accident, Mr. Corzine's family brought specialists in trauma and orthopedics from New York University to review his case.

In the coming days, with Mr. Corzine unable to speak because of the tube connecting his windpipe to the ventilator, David Donaghy, a nurse, read his lips as one way to respond to his wishes for more pain medication or ice water.

And when Mr. Corzine could talk again after a week of semiconsciousness, the chief topics of conversation were baseball and the New Jersey Devils hockey team, the doctors said.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

About 500 of Cooper's 2,500 trauma cases each year arrive via the helipad, with its view of the Philadelphia skyline. As they waited for Governor Corzine to land on April 12, Dr. Ross, a trauma nurse, a nurse anesthetist, a respiratory therapist and an emergency medical technician received word that he was conscious but on oxygen because of difficulty breathing due to his chest injuries.

Intravenous fluids helped maintain his blood pressure. Emergency workers had splinted his damaged leg.

When he arrived at 7:03 p.m., the team talked with him as they wheeled him to a nearby resuscitation area for a quick examination.

By 7:10, on the first-floor resuscitation unit, Dr. Ross asked more detailed questions about what hurt him, his general medical condition and what drugs he routinely took.

"Do what you have to do," Mr. Corzine told him, Dr. Ross recalled.

An anesthesiologist injected sodium pentothal, a rapidly acting barbiturate, to put Mr. Corzine to sleep, and succinylcholine, a muscle relaxant, to allow doctors to quickly insert a tube in his windpipe and connect it to a mechanical respirator.

Hospital aides wheeled Mr. Corzine to the basement for CAT scans looking for evidence of brain damage; tears in the aorta, the body's main artery; or damage to the heart, lungs, spleen, liver and intestines.

Mr. Corzine escaped those problems. But he had a number of fractures: the femur, sternum, a collarbone, a vertebra and 11 ribs. The broken ribs were in the central area of the chest, six on the left side and five on the right. Two of the ribs on the left were broken in two places.

An enormous force is needed to break the thick sternum and that many ribs in a chest cage that is designed to protect the heart and lungs. Dr. Ross, who has treated about 100 patients with injuries like Mr. Corzine's, said the governor was "just lucky" to have escaped heart and lung damage.

At 8:30 p.m., Dr. Ostrum began repairing the femur. Aligning the pieces was difficult because the bone was broken in two places, leaving one piece floating and unattached.

"Normally, you take the hip on one end and the knee on the other and put them back together again like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle," Dr. Ostrum explained. "When you get more pieces it gets more difficult."

In the three-hour operation, Dr. Ostrum removed as much dead muscle and other tissue as possible to help prevent infection. The thigh wound needed to be cleaned in two additional surgical procedures, on April 14 and 16.

About midnight that first Thursday, Dr. Ostrum and Dr. Ross met with two of Mr. Corzine's three children, advising them that he was in critical condition.

"All of us thought he would survive," Dr. Ostrum said. He did not "paint a bleak picture," he said, adding, "but I wanted them to understand the severity of the injuries."

There were potential fatal complications: pneumonia; other infections; acute respiratory distress syndrome; blood clots in the leg that could travel to the lungs or other organs and cause emergencies, if not sudden death. "It's counterproductive to tell somebody everything's going to be fine, and then when you do have problems, hear, 'Doctor, you told us everything was going to be fine,'" Dr. Ross said. "I would rather tell them about the realities and have everybody happy when things go well."

Mr. Corzine's children were "not in any mental state to ask specific medical questions at that point," he said, adding: "They were pretty distraught. They wanted to see him as soon as they could."

After talking with the family, the doctors reluctantly participated in a news conference at the request of Mr. Corzine's aides. They said they were hesitant in part because of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which prohibits the release of a patient's medical information without explicit permission. At the time, Mr. Corzine was under heavy sedation.

ONE MORE FRACTURE

The first week was the diceiest, with Mr. Corzine, who was in an isolation room for security reasons, using a mechanical ventilator because in one small area the broken ribs were unable to help the lungs expand, creating what is known as a flail chest.

The doctors still did not know whether Mr. Corzine was paralyzed. So they reduced the amount of sedation to observe his spontaneous movements and to ask him to follow their commands. When he moved both arms and both legs, the doctors became more optimistic.

Later, they performed a fuller examination.

"We just pat them down all over to make sure we did not miss any fractures or dislocation," Dr. Ostrum said. After the swelling subsided, they found that Mr. Corzine had also dislocated the last joint in his right middle finger.

Trauma doctors measure recovery in part by what patients want to talk about and do; when patients talk about subjects other than their injuries, they take it as a sign of progress. Mr. Corzine's doctors said they were encouraged that baseball and the Devils' playoff run were among his favorite topics.

At Cooper, doctors typically take turns caring for trauma patients every day. But Dr. Ross said that as the director, he wanted "to keep an eye on things," so he accompanied the duty doctor on daily rounds, a move that could mean stepping on a colleague's toes.

"When one attending surgeon looks over another attending physician's shoulder, they get irritable," Dr. Ross said, adding with a smile, "because we all know everything."

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Once he was off the ventilator, Mr. Corzine read several newspapers each day, the doctors said, but he did not do office work in the hospital.

In considering when Mr. Corzine could resume his official duties, the two main doctors—along with Dr. Michael E. Goldberg, the anesthesiologist who controlled his pain medication—discussed the timing and criteria among themselves and with members of the governor's staff, state lawyers and the governor's personal physician, who declined to be identified.

They considered what criteria might apply to the return to work of lawyers and business executives, or of physicians like themselves who care for critically ill patients.

Paramount was the worry that Mr. Corzine's pain medication could impair his thinking.

So they interviewed him, informally testing his memory. They discussed sports and current affairs. He said he was less familiar with South Jersey than the central and northern areas. The doctors were satisfied that he was absorbing the information and asking appropriate questions.

"We gave him specific advice on how much we want him to limit his formal schedule," Dr. Ross said. "We pushed the window back until he and we felt that he could respond if

somebody needed him at 3 o'clock in the morning for an emergency."

The doctors said Mr. Corzine seemed lucid, coherent and sharp. "You can't tell he is on any medication at all," Dr. Ostrum said.

After visiting Mr. Corzine at Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion in Princeton, on May 4, Dr. Ross decided that as a New Jersey resident he was "comfortable with him making executive decisions on my behalf."

Yet Mr. Corzine erred describing a broken bone in an interview conducted last Sunday and broadcast the next morning, the day he resumed his official duties. Speaking on NBC's "Today" show, Mr. Corzine said he had broken his tibia, the shin bone, not his femur.

EVERY TIME THEY COUGH

The main rehabilitation goal is for Mr. Corzine to restore his leg motion, then improve its strength and endurance. He uses arm crutches, instead of standard ones, to avoid aggravating his ribs.

He has three daily physical therapy sessions and is scheduled for monthly checkups through the summer. The doctors plan to monitor X-rays periodically to determine how well his femur is healing and when he can put weight on his leg.

(After Mr. Corzine underwent an outpatient checkup Friday, his office issued a statement saying all was going well.)

Mr. Corzine still is not out of the woods, Dr. Ostrum said. A possible complication is osteomyelitis, a serious bone infection. Also, rib fractures are generally painful for weeks.

"You can fix every bone in their pelvis and both their legs, and they will come back and complain about ribs every time they take a deep breath, every time they cough, every time they roll over in bed," Dr. Ostrum said.

Mr. Corzine, who has pledged to educate others about wearing seat belts, has said he remembered getting into the helicopter but virtually nothing about the first eight days in intensive care.

That was good news to Dr. Ross. The drugs that Mr. Corzine received in intensive care are the same that patients may receive when undergoing procedures like a colonoscopy, to ease their discomfort.

"One effect of the drugs is amnesia," Dr. Ross said. "We think it's a good thing that patients don't remember what they go through in the I.C.U."

HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, while I have pushed for a stronger U.S.-Vietnam relationship, I have also consistently said that this relationship depends on Vietnam's ability to make progress towards democracy and respect for human rights.

Since Vietnam joined the WTO in January, it has engaged in the largest crackdown on nonviolent pro-democracy activists in years. I believe that we need to judge Vietnam on the progress it makes, but it is clear to me that Vietnam is headed in the wrong direction on democracy and human rights.

As such, I am introducing a resolution condemning the recent convictions of prodemocracy activists and expressing concern over the future of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship.

I hope that this will serve as a wake-up call. I have been a consistent friend to Vietnam,

but I cannot compromise my support for human rights. I strongly urge the Government of Vietnam to uphold the basic rights and freedoms granted by Vietnam's own constitution and international commitments.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azeris began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our United States unconditional support in the war against terrorism, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan works with the United States regionally through the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), to prevent illegal trafficking and to secure borders.

Azerbaijan contributes significantly to the diversification of the western energy supply. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, an initiative supported by the Clinton and Bush administrations, reached a milestone when its first oil reached the Mediterranean Sea on May 28, 2006. The following March, the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding—designed to increase the level of cooperation between our two nations—with Azerbaijan to engage in high level dialogue on energy security in the Caspian region.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE D.C. CITIZENS A PLACE IN STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of States are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of DC residents. This bill is important to ensure equal treatment for the residents of the District of Columbia with the residents of the 50 States who already have statues representing them in Statuary Hall.

On August 10, 2006, the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities began the process of creating the two statues to be placed in Statuary Hall when the Commission chose Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant as the two prominent residents whose statues would represent the District of Columbia. The Commission also hired two Washington area sculptors, Steven Weitzman and Gordon Kay, to work on the sculptures of Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant and they are scheduled to complete their work later this year.

Douglass, (1818–1895), was born a slave in Maryland and became a District resident in 1870. He held diplomatic and District appointments and is considered to be the Father of the Civil Rights Movement. Douglass also displayed his talents as an orator and journalist throughout his life here. His home in the District of Columbia is a national monument which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

L'Enfant, (1754–1825), an architect, engineer and soldier came from France to serve in the American Revolution. George Washington chose L'Enfant to design the new federal city of Washington D.C. He became a US citizen and spent the remainder of his life in D.C. implementing his plan and making D.C. the beautiful city it is today.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself 206 years ago. Throughout these two centuries the city has created its very own rich and uniquely American history. Congresswoman NORTON said, "It goes without saying that the almost 650,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the Nation's Capitol as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed. That when we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 States, we undermine the Nation's efforts to spread full democracy around the world. While DC residents have not yet obtained the same political equality and voting rights as the citizens of the States, they have all the responsibilities of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all the Nation's wars." Norton said, "Today when our residents are serving in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol." There are more than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

"The statues would offer District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all

other citizens experience when they come to their Capitol—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of deceased local residents who have made significant contributions to American history,” Norton said.

TRIBUTE TO VALPARAISO HIGH SCHOOL AND THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I take this time to recognize Valparaiso High School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School for their involvement in the 23rd Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament. Both schools took 11th place in their divisions at the National Science Olympiad competition held in Wichita, KS. Valparaiso High School won medals in four events by finishing among the top six for that event while finishing in the top 10 in 10 of the tournament's 23 events.

The Science Olympiad began when Dr. Gerard J. Putz, Regional Science Consultant for Macomb County Intermediate School District in Michigan, decided to share the Science Olympiad program with Macomb County educators on March 29, 1982. The invitation was prompted by an article published in *The Science Teacher* in December 1977. After a few successful tournaments, Dr. Putz was convinced to share the program with the rest of the Nation, so the Science Olympiad program was presented to the Council of State Science Supervisors at the National Science Teachers Conference in Boston in 1984.

The mission of the Science Olympiad is “to promote and improve student interest in science while improving the quality of K–12 science education throughout the nation.” The purpose is to bring science to life and show how it works, to emphasize problem solving aspects, and to understand all of its concepts. The Science Olympiad teaches teamwork and cooperative learning strategies and promotes high levels of achievement and a commitment to excellence.

The 2007 Science Olympiad team from Valparaiso High School consists of: Lani Rush, Laurel Peterson, Sonia Phadke, Kristin Engerer, Katie Mika, Kate Sanders, Ruth Sanders, Rocio Rodea, Melissa Barrie Lehman, Ajay Major, Pat Skelton, Jon Gold, Mak Hozo, Schuyler DeArmond, Jeff Rinkenberger, Joe Kaminski, Ethan Kruse, Evan Gootee, and Gianni Galbiati. This team was under the outstanding guidance of coaches: Jim Young, Kristen Philipchuck and Kelly Woods. Several of these students received medals for their outstanding achievement. In Ecology, Jon Gold and Laurel Peterson received fourth place medals. Evan Gootee and Ruth Sanders received fourth place in Robot Ramble. The fifth place medal awarded for Entomology was given to Jon Gold and Lani Rush. Also taking fifth place medals in the subject of Write It, Do It were Ethan Kruse and Kate Sanders.

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School Science Olympiad team of 2007 consists of: Kati Manning, Jon Sherrick, Joe Galbiati, Julia Young, Matt Kerner, Kathryn Dalzotto, Josh

Bartusch, Chris Haller, Karl Rinkenberger, Katalin Hartman, Alex Robinson-Norris, Maddie Woods, Katelyn Neis, Christian Briggs, and Jesse Bunche, as well as student alternates: Brian Kingsbury, Adam Alamillo, Roshni Dhoot, Bennet Sanders, Cam Haskett, Nick Hartmann, and Daniel Karr. Guiding these exceptional students were coaches: Richard Bender, Carol Haller, Bill Dalzotto, Gwenn Rinkenberger, Mary Faith Dalzotto, Becky Jurgens, Paul Huang, Lynda Galbiati, Diane Bernhardt, Molly Joll, Linda Cronk, and Mike Haller.

Several members of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School team were awarded medals for superior achievement. Kathryn Dalzotto and Katelyn Neis won third place in Anatomy. Kati Manning and Kathryn Dalzotto also took a third place medal for Wheeled Vehicle. A fourth place medal was awarded to Chris Haller and Karl Rinkenberger for their Balloon Launch Glider. For Mission Possible, Chris Haller, Kati Manning, and Katalin Hartman all took fifth place medals. Roads Scholar brought Jon Sherrick and Christian Briggs sixth place medals.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Valparaiso High School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School on their great achievement at the 23rd Annual Science Olympiad Tournament. I wish them continued success. These intelligent young students possess the work ethic and dedication that will make them successful leaders throughout their bright futures. I hope the rest of my colleagues will join with me in applauding the Science Olympiad teams for their commendable efforts.

TRIBUTE TO BILL WHITE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to congratulate the Honorable Bill White, the distinguished mayor of my hometown of Houston, TX, on his receipt of the 2007 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Mayor White, who has a long history of public service as mayor and, previously, as Deputy Secretary of Energy of the United States, earned this prestigious award because of his heroic work in assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, nearly 150,000 evacuees came to Houston to find temporary housing. Mayor White established numerous important programs following these hurricanes that gave evacuees the badly needed temporary assistance they needed to get back on their feet.

In September 2005, Mayor White established a program giving emergency prescriptions and free medication to evacuees who could not afford to purchase them on their own. Mayor White also helped establish the Houston Katrina/Rita Fund, which provided evacuees assistance with groceries, baby care products, and other necessities. The mayor also worked tirelessly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a formalized housing program for evacuees and to transition tens of thousands of evacuees from hotel rooms to apartments.

All of the extraordinary work done by Mayor White and others helped get tens of thou-

sands of hurricane evacuees back on their feet. Already, many of the evacuees who stayed temporarily in Houston have returned to their permanent places of residence. Many of the 300,000 evacuees remaining in Houston are in the process of acquiring the stable employment and housing that will allow them to return home.

Without Mayor White's extraordinary leadership, the successful transition of untold thousands of victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita would not have been possible. Indeed, without his leadership, thousands of people would have been left temporarily homeless and many of the most vulnerable could have easily lost their lives.

In this situation, Mayor White's leadership was not without risk. Over the past 2 years, the mayor has frequently faced criticism for using the city's resources to help those who have come from the Gulf Coast in dire need of assistance. Yet, in the face of such risks, Mayor White has unflinchingly done what is just and right for those innocent victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award is one of the most prestigious honors that can be earned by our public servants. With his receipt of this award, Mayor White joins an extraordinary group of recipients that has included Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and several of my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. Congress. Mayor White's heroic actions in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita certainly merit his inclusion in this select group.

I applaud Mayor White and all of my fellow Houstonians for their terrific work in helping those victims of horrific natural disasters in their time of greatest need. I congratulate Mayor White on his receipt of the prestigious Profile in Courage Award, an award that is very well deserved.

BRADY CARTER WOODHOUSE
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brad Woodhouse formally of my staff and his wife Jessica on the birth of their first child, Master Brady Carter Woodhouse. Brady was born on May 23, 2007, and weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing Brad and Jessica great happiness upon this new addition to their family. A Raleigh native, Brad served as my Agriculture Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant and press secretary and will always remain a member of Team Etheridge.

As a father and grandfather, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around him to see the world through his eyes as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know Brad and Jessica look forward to the changes and challenges that their new son will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the

many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch him grow.

I welcome young Brady into the world and wish Brad and Jessica all the best as they raise him.

**SUPPORT FOR DR. HALEH
ESFANDIERI**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on December 30, 2006, Dr. Haleh Esfandieri, a prominent Iranian-American scholar, was in Iran to visit her sick 93-year-old mother when she was stopped by the Iranian authorities.

What followed was nearly 5 months of a series of intense interrogations and pressure tactics where she was harassed, threatened, and forced to make false statements against her employer, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. On May 8, she was again detained and imprisoned.

Her arrest and detention has angered analysts, human rights groups and lawmakers throughout the world. Yet still, the Iranian regime refuses to release her, claiming she is a spy who was plotting to overthrow the Iranian government.

I would like to submit a statement issued from the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars on May 21, 2007 for the record.

Madam Speaker, these charges are a farce. Professor Esfandieri is an accomplished scholar of Persian literature, language and history who taught at Princeton University before becoming the Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars Middle East Program. Her husband, Mr. Shaul Bakhash, is a professor at George Mason University of Fairfax, VA. The Woodrow Wilson Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose work is to research and foster dialogue within the scholarly world on current and future public policy issues.

Dr. Esfandieri's tireless dedication to teaching and advocating on behalf of Iran is clear. She has focused on building bridges and opening doors for peace in the Middle East. She has sought to facilitate and strengthen Iranian-American relations through numerous seminars, lectures and workshops with educators, policymakers and groups from both countries and has pressed wider freedoms to communicate about our common bonds and negotiate over our disagreements.

Like thousands of other Iranians living abroad, Professor Esfandieri is an academic who took a personal trip to see her family. If she as one individual scholar threatens this regime so much that they have to interrogate her for almost five months and detain her in a notorious prison cell known for human rights abuses, then one has to assume this regime is desperate to retain whatever control it can.

Today, the Iranian leadership's lack of courage and conscience is as clear as it is disappointing.

It is evident that this regime is criminalizing scholarly work of any kind, despite the fact that Iran's very own history is filled with centuries of scholarly research and discovery. This regime's egregious decision to imprison

Dr. Esfandieri reflects a deepening departure from the values and ideals the Iranian people have historically prided themselves on.

Iran's renowned nationalist Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq once said "There is no better way to govern Iran than democracy and social justice!"

Professor Esfandieri should be released immediately. Every day she is so unjustly detained, Iran proves the case of its detractors and makes it all the more difficult for institutions like Dr. Esfandieri's Wilson Center to treat the Iranian people with the respect that should be afforded to an historic civilization and citizenship of 70 million people.

**STATEMENT ON THE ARREST IN TEHRAN OF
HALEH ESFANDIARI, DIRECTOR OF THE WOODROW
WILSON CENTER'S MIDDLE EAST PRO-
GRAM**

Haleh Esfandieri, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a dual Iranian-American national, was arrested in Tehran on May 8 and incarcerated in the Evin Prison.

The background to this entirely unjustified arrest is as follows:

TIME LINE OF EVENTS

December 21, 2006, Haleh Esfandieri, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a dual Iranian-American national, traveled from Washington D.C. to Tehran, Iran to visit her 93-year-old mother for one week.

On December 30, 2006, on her way to the airport to catch a flight back to Washington, the taxi in which Dr. Esfandieri was riding was stopped by three masked, knife-wielding men. They threatened to kill her, and they took away all of her belongings, including her Iranian and American passports.

On January 3, when applying for replacement Iranian travel documents at the passport office, Dr. Esfandieri was invited to an "interview" by a man from Iran's Ministry of Intelligence.

Beginning on January 4, she was subjected to a series of interrogations that stretched out over the next six weeks, sometimes continuing for as many as four days a week, and sometimes stretching across seven and eight hours in a single day. Dr. Esfandieri went home every evening, but the interrogations were unpleasant and not free from intimidation and threat.

The questioning focused almost entirely on the activities and programs of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center. Dr. Esfandieri answered all questions fully; when she could not remember details of programs stretching back five and even eight years, the staff at the Wilson Center provided her all the information requested. As a public organization, all Wilson Center activities are on the public record. Repeatedly during the interrogation, she was pressured to make a false confession or to falsely implicate the Wilson Center in activities in which it had no part, but she refused.

On Friday, January 15, in the third week of interrogations, Dr. Esfandieri was told (misleadingly as it turned out) the questioning was over. On January 18, the interrogator and three other men showed up at Dr. Esfandieri's mother's apartment. Dr. Esfandieri was taking a nap and was startled to wake up and see the door to her bedroom open, her privacy violated, and three strange men, one of them wielding a video-camera, staring into her bedroom.

On February 14, the lengthy interrogations stopped.

On February 17, Haleh received one threatening phone call, and then she did not hear

anything from her interrogators for ten weeks.

On February 20, Lee Hamilton, president and director of the Wilson Center, wrote to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad asking that Dr. Esfandieri be allowed to travel. However, President Ahmadinejad did not reply to the letter.

At the end of April or early May, she was telephoned once again and invited to "co-operate." In effect, she was being asked to make a confession. She refused to make the false statements.

On Monday, May 7 she was summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence once again. When she arrived for her appointment on Tuesday morning, May 8th, she was put into a car and taken to Evin prison. She was incarcerated and was allowed only one phone call to her mother.

On May 9 she called her mother asking her to bring her clean clothes and her medicine. Her mother delivered the small package at Evin Prison on May 10, but was not allowed to see her.

On May 12, the hard-line daily "Kayhan" in an article accused Dr. Esfandieri of working with the U.S. and Israeli governments and with involvement in efforts to topple Iran's Islamic regime.

On May 15, Iranian judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi said that Dr. Esfandieri was being investigated for crimes against national security and that her case was being handled by the Intelligence Ministry.

On May 15, Haleh made a brief telephone call to her mother.

On May 16, Haleh's family retained the legal services of Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi to represent her.

On May 17, in an interview with Washington Post Staff Writer Robin Wright, Shirin Ebadi indicated that the Iranian government has rejected her request to represent Dr. Esfandieri. She also noted the court refused information on the legal charges against Dr. Esfandieri, and denied her legal team the ability to see Haleh.

On May 21 state-run television broadcasts in Iran indicated that Haleh is being charged with seeking to topple the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our efforts to obtain Haleh's release will continue and will be redoubled. She will be in our thoughts and prayers every day.

**TRIBUTE HONORING LIEUTENANT
MARTIN CUELLAR, JR., ON HIS
RETIREMENT**

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Martin Cuellar, Jr., on his retirement from the Texas State Department of Public Safety, where he served in law enforcement for the past 25 years.

Lieutenant Cuellar has an extensive background in criminal justice and has trained with the Webb County Basic Peace Officer Training Academy, and the Department of Public Safety Trooper Academy. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Laredo Community College. His criminal justice background helped him serve as a lieutenant with the Department of Public Safety in the narcotics service as a part of the Directed Intelligence Group, and as deputy sheriff with the Webb County Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Cuellar has worked in open and covert investigations resulting in seizures of thousands of pounds of narcotics throughout the State of Texas. He also has worked in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in cases involving murder, kidnappings, and extortion, and in international investigations regarding shipment of narcotics with Federal and State law enforcement agencies in the United States and Mexico. He has also been recognized by the Department of Defense and the United States Army for his assistance in the return of a wounded U.S. soldier to the United States.

While working in law enforcement, he met his wife, Veronica Cuellar, who is employed with the United States Probation Office. They have two beautiful children, Zachary and Casey, both of whom currently attend St. Augustine School in Laredo, Texas. I wish him and his family the best in his well-deserved retirement from an accomplished and highly regarded law enforcement career.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Lieutenant Martin Cuellar, Jr., to the law enforcement community in south Texas.

HONORING MICHAEL OAKLEY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the bravery of Mr. Michael Oakley of Savannah, Tennessee. On the night of April 13, 2005, Mr. Oakley showed the highest form of human compassion when he risked his own life to save an unknown motorist trapped in a vehicle that was engulfed in flames following a traffic accident. Despite the extreme heat of the fire and suffering from severe burns, Mr. Oakley returned to the wrecked sport utility vehicle multiple times, determined to save another man's life. Thankfully, Mr. Oakley was successful.

In honor of this astounding act of selflessness, Mr. Michael Oakley was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Extraordinary Civilian Heroism. This award is given by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and Mr. Oakley was one of only 19 to receive this recognition. He was chosen for this award due to his outstanding courage which should stand as an inspiration to all men and women across Tennessee and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in both thanking and congratulating Mr. Michael Oakley for his heroism; he is indeed, a worthy recipient of this outstanding honor. And may God bless all of the Michael Oakleys of America.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHARLIE RAY PARKER, JR.

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an ex-

ceptional officer in the United States Army, CWO5 Charlie Ray Parker, Jr., upon his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, first as an enlisted Army private, then as a non-commissioned officer, and finally as a commissioned warrant officer, Warrant Officer Parker personified the seven Army values, particularly those of duty, integrity, respect, and selfless service across the many missions the Army asked him to execute. It is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Beginning his career in March 1967, Warrant Officer Parker entered into active duty from the State of Virginia as an enlisted soldier. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant while serving as a motor sergeant in the First Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Staff Sergeant Parker served in the 82nd Airborne Division from March 1970 until receiving his appointment as a warrant officer in March 1977. His formula for success was simple, "work hard to accomplish your mission and take care of your soldiers," a formula he still follows today.

In June 1987, then Chief Warrant Officer 3 Parker served as the staff maintenance technician for the Logistic Readiness Division, 200th Theater Army Materiel Management Center in Zweibruecken, Germany. He was the principal automotive maintenance technical advisor to the Commander. As such, Warrant Officer Parker was singularly responsible for the increased readiness status in the 600 units of United States Army, Europe. His total dedication to this vital mission was a key to maintaining theater war fighting capability and allowed for the smooth deployment of U.S. V and VII Corps units to Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia.

By December 2000, Warrant Officer Parker was the Plans and Training Development Branch Chief, managing the development, implementation, and evaluation of training for the Warrant Officer Candidate Course, Staff Course, and Senior Staff Course for active and reserve component Warrant Officers. He also laid the groundwork for the Warrant Officer Mentorship Program, which is now implemented throughout the United States Army. As the most senior warrant officer in the Army Ordnance Corps, he used his position to ensure African-American soldiers were provided the same opportunities due every soldier who attended Army Warrant Officer Career Courses. His genuine concern for the welfare and development of warrant officers and candidates proves an enduring inspiration to all.

Most recently, as the senior evaluator for the \$1.6 billion combat logistics support system—Global Combat Support System—Army (Field and Tactical), Warrant Officer Parker developed an operational test and evaluation strategy for the Enterprise Planning Solution designed to ensure enterprise elements such as supply, maintenance, property, finance, and task organization processes are adequately evaluated in accordance with public law. This new system will transform Army logistics by ensuring direct support of Joint Force and Army military operations ranging from garrison duty to expeditionary deployments, ultimately reducing the need for forward deployed logisticians.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Chief Warrant Offi-

cer 5 Parker for his commitment, sacrifice, and contribution throughout these 40 years. I congratulate him on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR JOHN REDDING, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Mayor John Redding, Jr., of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. John Redding passed away on Monday, May 21, from complications from heart surgery. It is with sadness, but with fond memories and the promise of his ascension to a better place that I honor John Redding's life and memory today.

As a resident of Chambersburg for 51 years, Redding was the very definition of public service. For almost all his life, John was an active member of his community, serving on the Chambersburg Board of Directors, as chairman of the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority, as a council representative, and later as mayor of Chambersburg Borough, his hometown and the community to which he dedicated his life.

As a man of deep faith, brave courage and impassioned loyalty, Redding made his community a better place to work and live. The outpouring of support from his friends and neighbors upon his passing is a testament to the way he lived his life and a sign that the legacy he left on Chambersburg and the whole of Franklin County will not be forgotten.

More than this, it is my privilege to have known John personally and to have called him my friend. He and my family worked closely over 30 years to make Franklin County a better place to live and work and his effort was not in vain. Franklin County continues to be a showcase for economic investment, growth and opportunity in central Pennsylvania. Its success bears the mark of John's tireless efforts.

John was a pillar of dedication, commitment and leadership. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SERVICES ACT OF 2007

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Child Care Services Act of 2007 which reaffirms the Federal Government's commitment to helping children and families as they recover from acts of terrorism, major disasters or other emergencies.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, more than 3,000 licensed child care facilities along the Gulf Coast were damaged or destroyed. Parents needed a safe place to leave their children while working, looking for employment, cleaning debris from their homes, filing

claims with their insurance companies or working with Federal, State and local agencies to address their disaster-related needs.

However, while 3,045 licensed child care centers were eligible, just 10 centers in Louisiana and only one in Mississippi received Federal assistance. There were 1,690 eligible centers in my home state of Mississippi alone. I understand that numerous centers are still going through the appeals process with FEMA and have yet to rebuild and reopen.

I introduced this legislation to amend the Stafford Act to ensure that emergency child care is recognized as a "critical service" in the aftermath of a terrorist attack, major disaster or other emergency.

While provisions of the Stafford Act provide assistance to private nonprofit facilities that provide critical services, emergency child care is not listed as one. Passage of this measure will designate emergency child care as a critical service and let families know that in the time of a disaster, the need for childcare will not be forgotten.

In an effort to rebuild and restore child care operations in my home State of Mississippi, the Mississippi Early Care and Education Infrastructure Initiative was formed by Mississippi State University in partnership with Chevron, Save the Children, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The goals of the Initiative were to quickly reopen the thousands of child care centers damaged or destroyed by the hurricanes, to retrain staff and upgrade curriculum materials and play equipment, and to prepare for future emergencies.

Further, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services approved child care waivers for \$60 million so that parents were provided with vouchers for 60 days for much-needed child care services while working or looking for work. These waivers lifted Federal requirements for State matching funds and went directly to the States to administer their Child Care and Development Funds. There was a huge bottleneck with this process and numerous centers and parents were unaware of these resources. Further, many parents that received these vouchers were unable to find operational child care facilities.

I applaud the efforts of the Initiative fanned in Mississippi and am thankful that the Department of Health and Human Services responded quickly to the affected states. June 1st marks the beginning of 2007 hurricane season. We must be sure to let families know that the Federal Government is doing its part to ensure that critical services are available in the event of another large-scale disaster or even a major terrorist attack. Enactment of the Emergency Child Care Services Act is the way to do it.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1427) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related

Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes, with Mr. PASTOR (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, and commend Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his hard work to develop a comprehensive, bipartisan government-sponsored enterprise, GSE, reform bill.

This legislation will restore accountability by strengthening federal oversight of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks. It will consolidate regulation of the housing GSEs under the Federal Housing Finance Agency, a new, independent agency. The Federal Housing Finance Agency will be authorized to adjust the enterprises' risk-based capitol and even limit the size of their portfolios for a limited time, if necessary to ensure their safety and soundness.

H.R. 1427 also establishes an Affordable Housing Fund, which will be financed by a required contribution from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac of only 0.012 percent of their total mortgage portfolio each year. The fund will annually contribute approximately \$500 million to the construction, maintenance, and preservation of affordable housing.

The Affordable Housing Fund is an important step toward ensuring access to safe, affordable housing for all Americans, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic region. In its first year, the funds will be used entirely to build much-needed homes throughout the region devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In subsequent years, the grants from the fund will be administered by states, and Minnesota will receive an estimated \$6.5 million each year to build affordable housing for the most vulnerable families.

I applaud Chairman FRANK for bringing forward a comprehensive and fair bill. I am particularly pleased that in contrast to last years' efforts, H.R. 1427 does not include language restricting faith-based and nonprofit organizations from receiving affordable housing funds for participation in nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities. Congress should put the needs of American families before political ideology, and this bill does just that.

The Federal Housing Finance Reform Act has the support of the Bush Administration, as well as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, numerous other financial institutions, lenders, realtors, housing advocates, and many other housing organizations.

Access to safe and stable housing is a basic need and one that no individual or family should ever be denied. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1427.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Francis "Frank" Johnson's accomplished career and influential musical legacy. Born in 1792 in Philadelphia, Johnson was well known as a professional musician by age 20. Overcoming the barriers of racism, Johnson achieved in-

credible success even in the face of such racial strife, composing over 300 pieces of music. Further, in a time when professional musicians were a rarity in the United States, Johnson established a career with incredible variety and importance that has had an impact on countless modern musicians.

Johnson trained with Richard Wills, the West Point band leader, and quickly mastered many instruments like the keyed bugle. He published his first composition, "A Collection of New Cotillions," in 1818, and soon became one of Philadelphia's premier musicians. Johnson's vast musical accomplishments were noted by author Robert Walsh in 1819, commenting: "In fine, he is the leader of the band at all balls, public and private; sole director of all serenades, acceptable and unacceptable; inventor-general of cotillions; to which add, a remarkable taste in distorting a sentimental, simple, and beautiful song, into a reel, jig or country-dance."

It is an honor to recognize a figure who was able to overcome incredible hardships to create a legacy that has affected countless generations. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Francis Johnson for his renowned musical achievements and lasting influence.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM AND ESTHER DAVIDOWITZ AS THEY ARE HONORED AS "PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY" IN WILKES-BARRE PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to William and Esther Davidowitz who are being honored as Amudei Tzibur, or Pillars of the Community, by Temple Israel in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz will be formally honored at Temple Israel's annual dinner to be held Wednesday, June 13, 2007.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz are regarded as exemplary role models due to their achievements in both the Jewish community and the greater Wyoming Valley community.

Born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Davidowitz served in the United States Army during World War II and later attended Penn State University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He joined his family's shoe business in Hazleton and later moved to the Wilkes-Barre area to establish the Penn Footwear Company in Nanticoke.

Mr. Davidowitz is a past chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and he remains active in the Jewish Federation and he is a trustee at the Jewish Community Center in Wilkes-Barre. He has served on the boards of Temple Israel, the Jewish Community Center, Fox Hill Country Club and Penn State University, Lehman Campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz were instrumental in the creation and dedication of many community projects including the United Hebrew Institute Art Room, the Davidowitz Lounge at the Jewish Community Center and the building

addition to the United Hebrew Institute in 1980.

The Seligman J. Strauss Lodge of B'nai B'rith presented Mr. Davidowitz with its Community Service Award and the trustees of the Luzerne County Community College recognized his efforts as vice chairman of the building authority responsible for the construction of the Nanticoke campus.

Mrs. Davidowitz serves on the board of the Jewish Community Center. She is a past board member of Temple Israel and Wilkes University and has held leadership roles at the Northeast Ethics Institute, Luzerne County Area Agency on Aging, King's College, Ballet Northeast, College Misericordia, Wyoming Seminary, John Heinz Institute, Penn State Lehman Campus, Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic, United Hebrew Institute and the Wyoming Valley Jewish Campaign, which she chaired in 1990.

Mrs. Davidowitz is a member of the Klezmer Band, "Freilox and Bagels," where she has played both the harp and the flute. She has served as the non-governmental representative to the United Nations for the National Council of Jewish Women and as a local representative to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Mrs. Davidowitz has received tributes from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes-Barre and the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz are the parents of four sons, Jeffrey, Ivan, Steven and Benjamin. They now have nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz on this auspicious occasion. Their inexhaustible energy and devotion to family and community is an inspiration for all. Their volunteer service is an extraordinary example of how two people can make a huge difference in the quality of life in America.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UA LOCAL 370 PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity to extend congratulations to the UA Local 370 Plumbers and Pipefitters as they commemorate their 100th anniversary. A celebration will be held on June 7 in Flint Michigan.

Local 370 was chartered on June 4, 1907 with 15 members. As a part of the United Association, Local 370 worked to change the 10-hour workday and the working conditions of its members. Over the years the benefits enjoyed by the membership have changed and grown. Base wages, initiation fees, and window dues have all changed to reflect changing economic times. The pension fund and insurance fund were created by in response to the needs of the membership.

Over the past 100 years Local 370 has been an integral part for worker rights. Chartered 30 years before the famous UAW sitdown strike in 1937, members of Local 370

built the building where the sitdown strike took place. The members have been committed to protecting prevailing wages, working for laws to mandate plumbing licenses for anyone working in the plumbing industry, working with other labor organizations to improve the day-to-day lives of workers everywhere.

Committed to the United Association motto, "We Do It Right the First Time," Local 370 has created a first-class training center for apprentices to develop their skills. The current roster of almost 500 members can earn up to 70 different certifications from United Association. The members strive to be the best trained and most up to date in their professions.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Local 370 for their assurance to their craft, their customers, the public and to the American worker. We have all benefited from their desire to work in a safe, conscientious environment.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY ACT INTRODUCTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives CHRIS SMITH, CAROLYN MALONEY, and THELMA DRAKE to introduce a very important piece of legislation, the Congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery Act. The United States abolished slavery in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, however, slavery continues around the world and we must seek ways to end the suffering. This bill will establish a highly qualified and bipartisan commission to make recommendations on what the United States can do to eradicate slavery in all corners of the Earth.

According to the International Labor Organization, more than 12.3 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide. Free the Slaves, a non-governmental organization, estimates that upwards of 27 million people are slaves today. The U.S. Government says that there are more than 14,500 people trafficked into labor or sex exploitation in the United States each year; perhaps hundreds of thousands of Americans are also trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation right here in their own country. Each of these individuals is a modern-day slave.

Modern-day slavery takes many forms, most often different from the images found in our own history. Rather than owning their slaves outright as in years past, the 21st century slaveholders use threats, violence and psychological coercion to keep slaves in dangerous and degrading working conditions with little or no pay. In countries around the world, slaves can be found in many labor-intensive industries, including the agricultural, commercial sex, construction, garment, manufacturing and service industries, as well as in domestic service.

To develop U.S. policy to end this man-made tragedy requires a thoughtful analysis of the factors contributing to slavery, a coordinated strategy among government agencies, and the political commitment of foreign gov-

ernments to pursue an end to slavery and an end to the impunity of slave holders. The Congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery would start this effort by examining best practices to prevent modern-day slavery, examining the effectiveness of U.S. laws prohibiting the importation of goods manufactured or produced through forced labor or child labor, examine U.S. policies and relations with countries that tolerate modern-day slavery, increase education and awareness about modern-day slavery, make recommendations to Congress on actions necessary to combat and eliminate modern-day slavery in all its forms, and more.

It is time to end the exploitation of people around the world. The U.S. Congress has the responsibility to study ways the United States can end modern forms of slavery and this commission will be the first step. There is no place in our world for slavery. Let's work to end it now!

RECOGNIZING DIANNA M.N. LE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dianna M.N. Le, a young woman from Guam who will serve our Nation as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. She has made her parents, Phat V. Le and Lylan T. Nguyen of Mangilao, Guam, and the people of Guam immensely proud. Dianna attended Wettengel Elementary School and Santa Barbara Middle School in Dededo, and graduated from St. John's College Preparatory School in Tumon, with a performance record that earned her a nomination to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. Having successfully maintained an outstanding academic record, Dianna M.N. Le will graduate from West Point and will be commissioned as a second lieutenant on May 26, 2007. She will soon begin an important and challenging career as a soldier and leader serving our country with distinction.

Throughout her 4 years at West Point, Cadet Le was recognized for her military skill and athleticism, as well as for her academic achievement. She earned the Recondo badge for military proficiency, the Army Physical Fitness Badge, the Indoor Obstacle Course Badge, and the Master of the Sword Badge. She was elected as team captain of the nationally ranked USMA Women's Army rugby team. She was twice selected as a 2nd Team All-American for her skill as a rugby player. She twice earned recognition on the Dean's list. Additionally, a paper which she co-authored was published in Applied Optics Journal.

As a second lieutenant, Dianna will serve as a Military Police officer. Following graduation, she will attend a 6-week Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) in Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion of training at Fort Benning, she will receive additional training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, after which she will report for duty with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Bamberg, Germany.

In line with the USMA's mission to train military leaders, Dianna Le consistently upheld the Academy's principles, traditions, and values of "Duty, Honor, Country" throughout the

course of her education, and has proven that she has become a military leader, ready to take her place in the service of our Nation. The people of Guam are proud of Dianna's achievements and grateful for her service to our country. We commend her for her accomplishments and extend our best wishes to her as she begins her military career.

NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. I strongly oppose oil-producing and exporting cartels setting artificial limits on the production of oil. Infamous cartels, such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, have manipulated the supply of oil and helped worldwide gasoline prices soar. This harmful collaboration to limit oil production has led to hardships for the American economy.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders have brought a misguided bill to the House floor this week to supposedly bring an end to cartels such as OPEC. While I support the dismantling of cartels that manipulate oil production, I have serious concerns about negative consequences the United States would face if this bill were enacted.

I rise to oppose H.R. 2264 because of the impact it would have on our national security, trade security and energy security.

If the United States should bring an antitrust lawsuit against an OPEC member country, restrictions could be placed on our ability to station and activate troops in the Middle East. We rely on cooperation from countries that are members of cartels for assistance in the global war on terror. We should carefully consider what retaliatory actions or restrictions these countries could place on the United States if we were to pursue actions authorized in H.R. 2264.

These foreign governments could also levy trade sanctions against American products and businesses or choose to employ another oil embargo like the one that occurred in 1973. By cutting off oil supplies, they could cause gasoline price increases for American consumers. Americans do not want higher gas prices, which is the direction H.R. 2264 could take us.

The Democratic leadership should have waited until the Government Accountability Office is able to study the likelihood of retaliatory actions against the United States and any negative impact those actions would yield if H.R. 2264 became law. American security is not something we should treat glibly.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 2264. The uncertain impact this bill could have on America's national security, energy security and economic security is not worth risking for hasty passage of a bill that will yield no short-term benefits for the American people.

OPPOSITION TO SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the irresponsible immigration bill being considered in the Senate. As I travel around the big first congressional district in Kansas, the number one issue Kansans want to talk about is immigration. Across my home State and across the Nation, illegal immigration affects all aspects of life in our communities. Schools must deal with educating growing numbers of students who speak little or no English. Hospital emergency rooms grow even more crowded. Law enforcement work overtime to keep neighborhoods safe.

While our immigration process is broken and needs dramatic overhaul, the legislation currently being debated in the Senate is not the answer. The Senate proposal is public policy at its worst. I oppose the Senate legislation. As I have said since this debate began, the first priority must be to restore the integrity of our borders. Without secure borders, the laws dealing with citizenship and worker permits are irrelevant.

In addition to protecting the border, we also need a fair and efficient immigration agency that encourages compliance with our laws so that those who wish to come to the United States legally are able to do so in a timely and appropriate manner.

I am more than willing to work with my colleagues to craft legislation that truly will address this country's immigration issue, but the compromise legislation pending in the Senate only exacerbates the problem.

HONORING EDWARD LEWIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Ed Lewis. Today Ed is being honored by the Greater New Haven, Connecticut Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for his many decades of leadership in the fight for civil rights, equality and social justice in our country.

Ed is currently the Vice President of Franchise Relations for the Charlotte Bobcats in the National Basketball Association (NBA). In that role he develops relationships with state and local governments on behalf of that organization, and also ensures diversity in the Bobcats' business partnerships.

Ed brings a wealth of professional experience to his current position, having served as a leader in the cable television industry for many years. Before joining the Bobcats' organization, he was the Vice President of Corporate Affairs for BET (Black Entertainment Television) on Jazz: The Jazz Channel. Ed also served with distinction at Telecommunications, Inc. (TCI); District Cablevision, Inc.; and District Cable Advertising. His service with BET networks goes back to 1993, when he

served in roles related to network operations, consumer affairs and marketing. Ed received his B.A. from Howard University, and his M.A. from Occidental College. He was a National Urban Fellow, Ford Foundation Fellow and Associate Administrator for procurement for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Throughout his career, Ed has been active in professional and community groups, and maintains various leadership roles within those organizations. He is on the Board of Directors at Theater Charlotte; WTVI Public Television; and the Bobby Phills Foundation. Ed serves on the advisory boards of the Mint Museum as well as the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. Furthermore, he is a member of the Charlotte Rotary, as well as 100 Black Men of Charlotte.

I have known Ed for many years and I salute his unwavering commitment to young people. He is an inspirational role model to young African American boys and teenagers, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Ed's dedication to creating a more just and equitable society has had a positive impact on countless lives within and beyond the African American community. On this very special day, I join the friends, family and colleagues of Ed Lewis in thanking and saluting him for his profound contributions to his community, our country and our world.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY JOBS FOR YOUTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize a remarkable program for young people in my home district in California, the San Mateo County Jobs for Youth program will celebrate a quarter century of success on May 31, 2007.

This nonprofit program, founded and facilitated by my good friend Al Teglia, serves youth ages 14 to 21 regardless of background, socio-economic status, or risk level, at no cost to them or to employers. Youth learn to master job applications, prepare for interviews and create resumes; they then receive job or internship leads to help further their ambitions. Last year, nearly 2,000 young people were served in its five offices located throughout San Mateo County.

Madam Speaker, when so many bemoan the lack of effective programs to address the importance of giving young people a step up the ladder of employment, the Jobs for Youth program facilitates wonderful opportunities through its job development and referral program for youth.

The celebration scheduled for May 31 will focus on several specific examples of success. Gilead Sciences in Foster City will be honored at the event with a special business recognition, and Daly City will be presented the fourth annual Mary Louise Paskevich Award in memory of her 20-year Jobs for Youth participation. Both entities actively support the program by hiring program graduates and helping youth around the county. Bill Somerville of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation will also be acknowledged. He donated the "seed money" to Al Teglia to start up Jobs for Youth, which was initially called Summer

Jobs for Youth until 2000, when it became a year-round program.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the good work and success of San Mateo County Jobs for Youth as they celebrate 25 years of helping young people begin their productive lives of employment.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MINING ACCIDENT IN NOVOKUZNETSK, RUSSIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences over the terrible mining accident that took place earlier today near the Russian city of Novokuznetsk in Siberia. According to news reports, as many as 38 people may have been killed and still others injured in a methane gas explosion at the Yubileynaya coal mine. This is a terrible and sad accident.

Words alone cannot adequately convey my sympathy over this tragic accident. Coal mining is a difficult and dangerous job often done by the economically disadvantaged and accidents such as these only make that challenging way of life harder. Indeed, we Americans are, unfortunately, no stranger to mining accidents.

Just this morning the Helsinki Commission held a hearing on Russia. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those Russians affected by this tragedy and we hope that those who remain trapped are recovered soon and alive.

TRIBUTE TO SUNEIL IYER, SECOND PLACE WINNER IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sunil Iyer, a seventh grade student at Indian Trail Junior High School in Olathe, Kansas, who recently finished in second place at the 2007 National Geography Bee.

Suneil, who received a \$15,000 college scholarship prize award, qualified for the national bee by winning the Kansas National Geographic Bee for the second year in a row. Like his family, friends and neighbors, I am very proud of Suneil, and welcome this opportunity to share news of his success with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I include with this statement two recent articles from the local press regarding Suneil Iyer's success: an article from the Kansas City Star that was published prior to the national bee, and an article from today's Olathe Daily News summarizing the results of that competition.

[From The Kansas City Star, May 18, 2007]

THREE-PEAT NOT ON GEOGRAPHY WHIZ'S MAP: INDIAN TRAIL STUDENT PLACED FOURTH IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE LAST YEAR

(By Martha Zirschky)

Suneil Iyer has always loved animals, his mother says. The Indian Trail eighth-grader is intrigued by the wildlife in Antarctica and says he'd love to travel there.

A year ago, Suneil Iyer missed a question on the "Somers Islands"—aka Bermuda—at the National Geographic Bee finals in Washington, D.C. and was eliminated.

Many would find consolation in being the youngest finalist and still finishing fourth on the national stage. But not Suneil, now a 12-year-old Indian Trail Junior High seventh-grader who's again qualified for next week's final round.

If he places in the top three and wins scholarships worth \$25,000, \$15,000 or \$10,000, he would be ineligible to return again in 2008. That's his goal.

"I want to win and get it over with," he said.

Suneil qualified for the national bee by winning the Kansas National Geographic Bee for the second-straight year. Next Tuesday, he'll be one of 55 fourth- to eighth-graders who advanced from an original field of 5 million contestants to compete in the national preliminaries. Tuesday's top 10 winners will move on to Wednesday's finals with Alex Trebek, the Jeopardy host, serving as moderator.

Suneil will join geography bee winners from the 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, United States Territories and Department of Defense Dependents schools. His trip and that of his seventh-grade social studies teacher, Jill King, are being paid for by National Geographic.

Contestants can miss one question, Suneil said, and still stay in the running. Miss again and you're eliminated. Suneil made it to question 95 last year before his second miss.

The questions are both oral and written, and contestants have 12 seconds to answer, Suneil said. Both physical and cultural geography are fair game.

His goal, of course, is the \$25,000 college scholarship. Second or third would be an improvement over last year. The main thing, he says, is to win and not have to return to the pressure mill of a national contest.

Suneil has a large support system of family, friends and school community.

"This is a nice cooperative community," his mother, Lila, said. "It is a great community in which to raise kids."

Suneil's father, Ramakrishnan, is his main tutor, but he's also mentored by Eswar, an older brother. Although Suneil beat his brother last year at the state bee to win the trip to nationals, Eswar remains one of his biggest fans.

At Indian Trail, students even help Suneil by researching geography questions and putting them on cards for Suneil to study.

"The school supports Suneil with its 'Suneil, did you know?' (program)," Assistant Principal Margo Twaddle said.

Twaddle dispels the notion that Suneil is a one-trick pony. He's been the school spelling bee champ, participated in the Science Olympiad, been to math camp and played on a recreational softball team.

His career goals include becoming a pilot or marine biologist, or—not surprisingly—a geographer. He won his first geography bee when he was in fourth grade and began drawing animals at age three.

"As a little guy, he was always interested in animals, real or fictional," his mother said.

Suneil's father travels extensively and occasionally the family accompanies him, as

they did on a "trip of a lifetime" to the Galapagos Islands. The best part, Suneil said, was the islands' animal inhabitants, such as the iguana and giant tortoise.

On Suneil's dream itinerary? Egypt for the antiquities, he says, and Antarctica for the wildlife.

But first, there's a trip to Washington D.C.

[From the Olathe News, May 24, 2007]

OLATHE BOY PLACES SECOND IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

(By Arley Hoskin)

Olathe residents do not have to travel far to find a geography whiz.

Indian Trail Junior High School seventh-grader Suneil Iyer demonstrated his talent Wednesday with a second-place finish at the 2007 National Geography Bee.

"We are so proud of him," said Suneil's mother, Linda Iyer. Suneil traveled to Washington, D.C., with his parents, Linda and Ram Iyer, and his ninth-grade brother, Eswar, on Monday. The preliminary rounds started Tuesday.

The top 10 students competed in the final round Wednesday. Suneil competed in the bee for the first time last year when he placed fourth. He said he wanted to do better this year and is happy with second place.

"I wanted to get first, but I still thought second was pretty good," Suneil said.

Suneil received a \$15,000 college scholarship for his finish.

Suneil stumbled when judges asked him to name "a city that is divided by a river of the same name that was the imperial capital of Vietnam for more than a century."

"I just guessed," Suneil said.

Suneil did not guess the correct answer: Hue.

Caitlin Snaring, a 14-year-old home school student from Washington, placed first and received a \$25,000 college scholarship. Third place, and a \$10,000 college scholarship, went to Mark Arildsen, a 13-year-old Tennessee student. Linda Iyer said Suneil gained more than geographical knowledge and college money during the competition.

"The connections with the kids that he's made have been really wonderful," she said. "The kids here are all just really interested in this geography thing. They were just having a ball here." After Tuesday's rounds, the students gathered for a barbecue and games. Suneil said he enjoyed the recreational activities the bee planned for the students.

"They were fun," he said.

Ram Iyer said he thinks Suneil continues to show his peers in Olathe that geography is fun.

"His school was very excited that he was going," Ram Iyer said. "This has made a lot of other students think about if they want to try the geography bee."

Students age 10 to 14 can compete in the national bee, but this will be 12-year-old Suneil's last year. Students who place first, second or third cannot compete again.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL RYAN A. BISHOP, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the State of Texas and of our Nation.

Corporal Ryan A. Bishop was a United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for

his country on April 14, 2007 during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

Assigned to the tenth mountain division, Ryan enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Moreover, he was a leader and mentor to younger soldiers and his posthumous promotion to Corporal exemplifies this spirit.

Corporal Bishop is survived by his wife, Melanie and his father, Charles Bishop both of Tyler, Texas.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all of Ryan's family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Corporal Bishop's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Corporal Bishop will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 444

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution (H. Res. 444) supporting the goals and ideals of National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day.

This resolution is intended to honor the invaluable contributions of Charles Edward Taylor, the father of aviation maintenance, and to recognize the essential role of aviation maintenance technicians in ensuring the safety and security of civil and military aircraft.

As you may know, Charles Edward Taylor, who built and maintained the engine that was used to power the Wright brothers' first controlled flying machine, was born on May 24, 1868.

Forty-five U.S. States have already declared May 24 to be Aviation Maintenance Technician Day within their jurisdictions. My resolution is intended to support these efforts, and honor aviation maintenance technicians, including Charles Edward Taylor.

CONGRATULATING GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY DOLPHINS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Gulf Shores High School softball team, the Lady Dolphins, on winning the Class 5A softball championship.

The Gulf Shores High School softball team has reached the state playoffs for the past six years, coming in second in 2004 and 2006; however, this is their first state championship title.

The Lady Dolphins, led by Coach Karen Collins, won four tight games over two days of tournament play before scoring a dramatic one run victory in the bottom of the seventh inning to win the state championship.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Gulf Shores softball team on a great season and winning the state championship. This team deserves to be recognized for this great accomplishment, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff.

GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL ROSTER

Jennifer Adams, Whitney Bizjack, Brit-tany Carroll, LaDaire French, Haley Haynie, Haley Hopkins, Stephanie Ivie, Yvette Jones, Aimee Livingston, Carolyn Manolakis, Tabitha Reno, Stefani Reynolds, Elizabeth Safiran, Stephanie Stuckey, Lisa Ybarra, Head Coach—Karen Collins, and Assistant Coach—Michael Jones.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT COBY G. SCHWAB

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SSG Coby G. Schwab, a true American hero, who died on Thursday, May 3, 2007 of injuries sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Schwab died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to the 321st Engineer Battalion, United States Army Reserve stationed out of Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Staff Sergeant Schwab was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the United States Army to serve his country in the Global War on Terror. He will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was. His warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life SSG Coby G. Schwab. He acted heroically and made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Global Terror defending democracy and freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the students of the social science classes of Central High School's 266th graduating class. Under the leadership of teachers William Graham, Michael Horwits, Stanford Levy, Joseph Putro, Reginald Speir, and president Dr. Sheldon Pavel, the students' extensive research and dedication to political education deserves great recognition.

As members of the social science class, students gained an understanding of the local political process through the in-depth study of Philadelphia's 2007 mayoral race. Their hard work and dedication culminated in the Power of Student Voices Mayoral Forum, which was

entirely student run and moderated. Attended by the major mayoral candidates, the forum provided the students with an opportunity to raise their concerns and speak directly to the candidates themselves. The hard work necessary for the event's success further exemplifies the students' commitment to excellence.

It is an honor to recognize a group of students who show such great dedication to the political process. The commitment and outstanding initiative of the students is to be praised, and their excellence deserves great credit. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the students of the social science classes of Central High School for their exemplary contribution to the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATING MONSIGNOR JOHN J. BENDIK AS HE CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PRIESTHOOD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Monsignor John J. Bendik, pastor of the parish community of St. Casimir, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph in Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating his 40th anniversary in the priesthood.

Over the years, Monsignor Bendik has distinguished himself as a priestly shepherd to his many parishioners, and most especially, as a staunch advocate of education at all levels.

A son of the late John and Helen Sterbinsky Bendik, Monsignor Bendik was born in Wilkes-Barre and graduated from St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana before his ordination on May 27, 1967 by Most. Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, then bishop of the Scranton Diocese.

Monsignor Bendik served parishes in East Stroudsburg, Stroudsburg, Delaware Water Gap and Bushkill. He taught at Notre Dame High School and ministered to the students at East Stroudsburg University. Later, he served as chaplain to students at College Misericordia in Dallas, Pa.

During his long campus ministry, he served in many local, State and national leadership roles. He was the first president of the Pennsylvania Campus Ministry Association and was a founding member of the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry and the National Catholic Student Coalition. He served as team member for the Frank J. Lewis Campus Ministry Training School and also was a member of the Northeast Regional Ministry in Higher Education and the Associates for Religion and the Intellectual Life.

Prior to his current assignment, Monsignor Bendik also served at Our Lady of Snows in Clarks Summit, St. Benedict in Newton Township and St. Mary of Czestochowa in the Greenwood section of Scranton.

Monsignor Bendik serves on the Board of Trustees at College Misericordia, the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton and the Board of Trustees at St. Meinrad School of Theology. He has also served as a member of the Board of Pastors of Seton Catholic High School and the Greater Pittston Ministerium.

Monsignor Bendik also serves in many capacities on the diocesan level including the post of Dean of priests for northern Luzerne County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Monsignor Bendik on his 40th anniversary as a Catholic priest. His selfless service and wise counsel to his many parishioners and students will be forever remembered and respected. Monsignor Bendik has truly enriched the lives of so many as he has labored to improve the quality of life throughout his community.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' CITYWIDE TITLE I PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Flint Community Schools' Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council. The council will hold a celebration on June 5 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, in honor of this event.

Dr. Edward Hansberry founded the Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council in 1967. The advisory council was born from the idea that parents should be honored for the work they do on behalf of their children. It has grown into a vehicle to teach parents and give them a voice in the education of their children. The advisory council allows for the parents to have positive interaction with teachers and social workers. This builds bonds between parents and administrators and gives parents a mechanism to provide feedback on the programs.

David Solis, director of State, Federal and local programs for the Flint Community Schools will host the celebration. Named the "40th Parent of the Year Celebration—A Journey of Joy, Challenge and Change" this celebration will highlight the dedication and success of the students, parents and educators benefiting from title 1.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council for 40 years of successfully involving parents in the title I program.

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW WORLD OF COCA-COLA

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize an important event for the city of Atlanta—the upcoming grand opening of the New World of Coca-Cola adjacent to Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

Seventeen years ago in 1990, the World of Coca-Cola opened its doors to the public and has since delighted over 13 million visitors at its Underground Atlanta location. This new and expanded facility opening May 24 is twice the size of the current World of Coca-Cola. It

will be a much more interactive and dynamic version of its predecessor.

The New World of Coca-Cola will house exhibits that draw upon Coca-Cola's history and timeless values of optimism and refreshment. It is a physical manifestation of the company's vision and values and commitment to the city of Atlanta. It will introduce visitors to the Coca-Cola Company of the 21st century: a company that is committed to offering people more than 400 ways to be refreshed and to having a meaningful impact in the communities in which it operates.

I would like to congratulate the Coca-Cola Company on a premier destination for Georgia residents and visitors from around the world.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN THOMAS AGUON DUENAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Midshipman Jonathan Thomas Aguon Duenas who will graduate from the United States Naval Academy with a bachelor of science in history and who will be commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 25, 2007.

Jonathan is a graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School on Guam, where he acquired outstanding leadership qualities and a desire to strive for excellence. Jonathan credits two other Chamorro Naval Academy graduates for inspiring his decision to become an Academy-trained naval officer: Retired Navy Captain and former Guam Senator Eulogio "Eloy" Bermudes, was the first Chamorro graduate of the Naval Academy in 1970, and Captain Peter A. Gumataotao, who graduated the Academy in 1981, and who was the first Chamorro selected as commanding officer of a Navy warship, the U.S.S. *Decatur*, which made a port visit to Guam during his command. Captain Gumataotao also is a product of Father Duenas Memorial School, having graduated from the school in 1976. Jonathan's brothers who are currently serving in the Air National Guard also are a source of inspiration.

Jonathan entered the United States Naval Academy as a plebe in 2003 and worked hard to become a naval officer. He was one of only 36 midshipmen selected to attend the prestigious Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer Program. Jonathan will report aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. *Curtis Wilbur*, home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan. Upon completion of his first tour, he will report to Nuclear Power School in South Carolina.

Jonathan was raised on Guam, the youngest of eight children born to Ricardo Camacho Duenas and the late Ruth Aguon Duenas of Tamuning. He was steeped in his Chamorro culture and a strong sense of responsibility, volunteering his time and effort in support of Habitat for Humanity projects in the greater Washington, DC area.

Today we share the pride of the Duenas family and the people of Guam in Ensign Jonathan Duenas' achievements. As evidenced by his performance in school, Jonathan promises to truly become the naval officer as hon-

orable as those who inspired him and those who preceded him.

FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to fuel shortages, waiting in long lines to purchase gas, price controls and H.R. 1252. I rise in support of lowering fuel prices for consumers, creating more jobs for Americans, opening new sources of energy and encouraging investment in innovative energy technologies.

Today the House will be voting on H.R. 1252, a bill that would impose price controls on free-market energy products and would create hardship on Americans during a national emergency. Guised as a price gouging bill to protect American consumers, H.R. 1252 would actually create hardship for Americans.

I do not support price gouging. Taking unfair advantage of consumers, especially during an emergency situation, is wrong. Those who engage in this type of behavior should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Kansans are already protected by state law that prohibits price gouging during a time of disaster.

In a free market economy, when supplies become limited or scarce, prices rise to curb demand and help ensure product remains available. When artificial fuel prices are set by the government, demand remains high and supply will not be able to keep pace. Consumers will be faced with gas rationing and standing in long lines. Consumers who need fuel could be faced with gas stations running out of gasoline.

There is no question my constituents in Kansas are angered by high fuel prices. We all feel the pain in our wallets. High energy costs effect everyone from families to small businesses to large corporations. However, voting to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to enforce price controls on a free-market energy produce like gasoline will not provide relief at the pump. If anything, it could restrict consumers from purchasing fuel during times when it is needed the most.

Returning to a 1970s era where consumers are forced to wait hours in line just to purchase fuel is not a solution. H.R. 1252 does not help lower the cost of fuel for Americans today or long-term. It is not an effective solution to high gas prices.

Congress should instead offer real solutions like encouraging more investment in innovative energy technologies, supporting clean and safe access to petroleum resources off our Nation's shores and on public lands, spurring investment in renewable sources of energy, and expanding domestic refining capacity. These are solutions that would help lower energy costs and create American jobs.

This week I introduced The Refinery Streamlined Permitting Act of 2007, a bill to help increase America's refining capacity and lower gas prices. My bill streamlines the federal permitting process for new or expanding domestic refineries. It creates a framework for all parties involved to understand what actions

need to be carried out for an expeditious permit approval to be granted. And it requires that such actions be completed within one year.

My bill will require agencies to give high priority to refinery applications that would result in greater capacity, a cleaner-burning fuel, or a reduction in a refinery's pollution output. And it will require Federal agencies to more carefully examine the impact a proposed rule would have on energy supplies and provide that information to the public.

Instead of bringing an artificial price-control bill to the House floor that could lead to gas rationing and long lines, Democrat leaders should instead offer real solutions.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1252 and in support of policies that will lower the cost of gasoline for the American people.

THANKING KANSAS BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR
LARRY WELCH

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, Kansas was once known for being part of the Wild West. Widespread lawlessness allowed for cattle rustlers and wild cowboys in towns like Abilene and Dodge City. Our great state also has a history of lawmen known for settling issues with a personalized style of law enforcement. Sheriffs Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok faced threats from individuals bent on destroying a peaceful way of life. The retiring Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation is part of this storied tradition of making Kansas a state where families can pursue a way of life envied by others. Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Welch's service as a leader and innovator in law enforcement.

Director Welch and I share a similar academic background. We both received a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Kansas. Director Welch though, went on to serve his country in a noble profession. Where did I go wrong, becoming a lawyer then a banker and then a politician? In 1961, he was appointed as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For 25 years, his tireless commitment to justice led him around the country. Before returning to Kansas, he served in FBI assignments in Knoxville, Tennessee; Washington, DC; Miami, Florida; West Palm Beach, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; San Antonio, Texas; and McAllen, Texas.

During his lengthy service with the FBI, Director Welch was charged with supervising all FBI operations in Kansas. After his time with the FBI, he began work as associate director at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. While at the training center he was promoted to Director and provided leadership in this position for nearly 5 years before he accepted the appointment by Attorney General Robert Stephan as director of the KBI. He was reappointed KBI director by Attorney General Carla Stovall in 1995 and by Attorney General Phill Kline in 2003.

Director Welch has been a strong advocate in the fight against methamphetamine and its devastating impact on communities across Kansas. He recognized the significant harm

and damage this poison inflicts on families and has made combating the manufacture and use of meth a priority of the KBI under his administration. Seizures of meth labs have drastically decreased in our state during the past several years. This can only be attributed to the effectiveness of law enforcement in Kansas making the production of meth an extremely risky business. The humble and relentless man that Director Welch is, could be seen when he quickly responded to compliments of the KBI's many lab seizures by explaining that meth is still coming in from foreign sources and that there was still much work to be done to protect Kansans from this destructive drug.

I would be remiss if I did not include in a tribute to this man, any mention of the care he has shown to the law enforcement community in Kansas. His compassion is well known throughout the state. He is consistently the first to express sympathies, in person, to families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. Many in this field of work, whether in the city police, sheriff's department, or Highway Patrol, consider Larry Welch a friend and an advisor.

Director Welch has given back to his state and country for 46 years with much of his career dedicated to making Kansas a safe and desirable place to live and visit. In the many important roles he filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty. I join Larry Welch's many friends and admirers in thanking a great man for great service.

HONORING OAKLAND COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), a faith-based community organizing network in Oakland, California. Today, OCO celebrates 30 years of advocacy and invaluable service to the community.

In 1972, OCO was established as an organizing project of Fathers John Baumann, S.J. and Jerry Helfrich S.J., the founders of the Pacific Institute for Community Organization (PICO) network. PICO is a national network with faith-based organizations at work in over 45 cities in 12 states across the United States, pursuing initiatives in areas such as healthcare access, education reform and affordable housing.

From 1972–1977, Baumann and Helfrich focused on building neighborhood organizations in West Oakland, San Antonio, Fruitvale, Central East Oakland from 50th to 80th Streets, and Elmhurst area. Neighborhood after neighborhood worked on issues like junkyards, stray dogs, prostitution, zoning, crime and vacant housing. On May 14, 1977 over 1,000 people gathered at Merritt College to officially give birth to OCO, articulating the faith values that today are the foundation of OCO's organizing principles.

For the next 8 years, OCO operated successfully as a neighborhood based organization, bringing people together around local and citywide issues. During this period, OCO achieved major victories in areas such as af-

fordable housing, local hiring, and the rehabilitation of once-vacant houses.

In 1985, with the support of PICO, OCO began the transition from a neighborhood-organizing model to a congregation community-based model. Using this method, OCO developed strong local organizations in seven congregations. During the 1980's OCO received national accolades in many areas, but in particular for its groundbreaking work in partnership with the City of Oakland to combat drug use.

In the 1990s, OCO leaders turned their attention on the root causes of poverty in Oakland and focused on developing sustainable solutions for complex problems. During that time, OCO organized thousands of people for major citywide action that resulted in the creation of Aviation High School, a pilot school-to-work transition program; the Hope Campaign, which created smaller kindergarten class sizes; and the opening of a grocery store in West Oakland.

OCO has continued this proud tradition of advocacy and innovation through the present day. Over the past several years, OCO has again charted new territory in several areas through initiatives such as the Restructuring of two Oakland High Schools, Castlemont High School and Fremont High School, into separate but interconnected schools within their respective schools. Furthermore, OCO continues its extraordinary advocacy work in the areas of healthcare access, immigrants' rights and affordable housing.

On May 11, 2007, OCO will celebrate its 30th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending the organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as an institution of faith and worship, but also as a leader in working to provide services and advocacy to the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of leadership and service throughout its 30 years of community organizing and action, OCO has contributed enormously not only to the Oakland community, but also to our State, our country and our world.

SAN MATEO COUNTY AND SAN
FRANCISCO COUNTY DISTIN-
GUISHED SCHOOLS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly praise the educational system within my home state of California and, in particular, the schools in my congressional district. In the face of what seems constant criticism of our school systems, there are actually many, many instances of excellence.

California's State Superintendent of Education Jack O'Connell recently announced a remarkable list of 76 middle schools and 95 high schools that will be designated as California Distinguished Schools through 2011. San Mateo County Board of Education Superintendent Jean Holbrook said that San Mateo County, much of which is within California's 12th congressional district, is the 16th largest county in the state yet ranks fourth in receiving distinguished school awards. I agree completely with her that this "says something

about the great job that the educators of San Mateo County are doing.”

Nine San Mateo County middle and high schools were among the California schools selected as 2007 Distinguished Schools. This annual award recognizes these schools as among the state's most exemplary public schools.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the work done by the educators in California. The nine distinguished schools from San Mateo County include Ralston Middle School in Belmont, Crocker-Middle School in Hillsborough, La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, Corte Madera Elementary School in Portola Valley, Aragon High School in San Mateo, Carlmont High School in Belmont, Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton and Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

I would like to add praise for two schools in San Francisco, also partly within my home district. Gateway High School and KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy Middle School were likewise selected as Distinguished Schools for 2007.

To be designated a Distinguished School requires a comprehensive review and evaluation. Of California's 2,400 middle and high schools, approximately 478 schools were eligible for consideration. Ultimately, 279 schools submitted the formal application for consideration. And finally, 76 schools were selected for the list.

Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to share with my colleagues this information and ask them to join me in recognizing the success of these fine California schools.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER KNOPKE,
KANSAS OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
MEMBER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young community leader from my congressional district, Jennifer Knopke, who was named Kansas Outstanding Junior Member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and will be so recognized at the DAR's August convention.

Jennifer is a dedicated teacher of at-risk students in the Shawnee Mission School District, and is an active volunteer in American Cancer Society Relay for Life, as well as her DAR volunteer activities.

To be considered for this award, young women must be between 18 and 35, and must be active in furthering the ideals of “God, Home, and Country” of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as other community service activities. State winners will compete in the national contest. I know Jennifer will represent the Kansas DAR well.

The Outstanding Junior Member Contest began in 1963 to honor young women active in their chapter and community activities, and to encourage young members to become involved in DAR activities and programs.

Outstanding young leaders like Jennifer are the backbone of every community. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Jennifer for this well-deserved award.

HONORING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in praise of the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, home to three high schools ranked among the best in the nation by Newsweek magazine. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Arthur Johnson, is doing an outstanding job, for which we are all very grateful. The School District of Palm Beach County currently includes 166 public schools and over 170,000 students. The efficient operation of so many institutions of learning is a considerable undertaking, and Dr. Johnson, his administrators and the faculties of the various schools deserve great praise for their hard work and huge success.

I want to offer particular praise for Suncoast High School, rated fifth best high school in America by Newsweek and Dreyfoos School of the Arts, also in the top 20, both of which are in my district. Suncoast, an international studies magnet school, has been recognized before for the high quality of its programs. Additionally, at least five Suncoast teachers have been singled out for excellence, and both schools have seen many awards go to their students.

On this occasion, I also want to recognize Jessica Su, a junior at Suncoast High School, one of 81 students in America to receive the 2006–07 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement. This prestigious distinction is given to students who demonstrate the highest proficiency in mathematics and science. Ms. Su is one of only seven juniors to win this award. A brilliant young lady, her remarkable accomplishment can be credited in part to the education she is getting at Suncoast.

I am delighted to be able to stand here today praising these fine accomplishments, and it is with great pride that I congratulate both schools, their administrators, faculty and students and Dr. Johnson for the fine work they are all doing.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST LANCE
C. SPRINGER, U.S. ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I Rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

Specialist Lance C. Springer II was a United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for his country on March 23, 2007, during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

Lance—or Craig as his family and friends called him, enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, Craig's service as a field medic, placing the well-being of others ahead of his own, exem-

plifies the type of selfless and caring man that he was.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Craig's parents and all of his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Specialist Springer's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Specialist Craig Springer will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF “THE SAFETY,
EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ON TRANSPORTATION
PROJECTS THROUGH PUBLIC IN-
SPECTION ACT OF 2007”

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safety, Efficiency and Accountability in Transportation Projects through Public Inspection Act of 2007 (H.R. 2485).

This bill would require public employees to perform the inspection and related essential public functions on all state and local transportation projects. My bill is intended to ensure that public safety is protected, transportation funds are not wasted and projects are delivered in a timely manner.

On transportation projects, the construction inspector is the eyes, ears and voice of the public. Inspectors ensure that construction and seismic standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements and that the materials used will stand the test of time. In short, inspectors are there to ensure that the motoring public gets what they pay for and public safety and the public interest are protected.

When the construction inspection function is outsourced to a private company, there is no longer a representative of the public on the job site. In this circumstance, one private company is charged with the task of inspecting the work of another private company. This creates multiple conflicts for the private inspector. First, the private inspectors' primary obligation and responsibility is not to the public, but to the success and profitability of his company. Because the private construction company whose work they are inspecting on one project may be a business partner on a future project, private inspectors may also feel pressure from the private contractor to take steps that ensure larger profits for both firms. I am concerned that these conflicts have led private inspectors to cut corners and overlook problems that threaten public safety, increase costs and delay projects.

There are many examples in which public safety has been threatened by the use of private inspectors, including Boston's “Big Dig” (where a concrete slab from a tunnel ceiling fell and killed a woman), the L.A. Redline subway (Hollywood Blvd. collapsed), the 8–805 Interchange in San Diego (10,000 defective welds on a seismic retrofit), the Connecticut I–84 project (hundreds of drains that lead nowhere).

Contracting out public inspection work also does not save money. Defective work requires extensive repairs, and inevitably, the taxpayer gets stuck with the bill. Comparative studies

have also found that contracting-out engineering, design, and inspection costs more than to do this work in-house, and none of these studies found that consultant engineers were less expensive. Factors that contribute to consultants' excessive costs include the lack of competitive bidding, cost-plus provisions in contracts, salary differentials between the private and public sectors, profit margins of from 10 percent to 15 percent, and additional costs connected with selecting and supervising consultants.

Failure to have public construction inspectors has also delayed projects in the past and will undoubtedly do so in the future. One such example is the privately inspected \$12 million carpool bridge connecting the San Diego (405) and the Costa Mesa (55) Freeways. The project was to have been completed in April 2003. However, work was halted in August 2002 when chunks of concrete were falling from the structure and many cracks were noticed. Contractor and private inspector errors were later discovered and the carpool ramp did not open until January 2005.

The public and the Federal Government understand what's at stake. In a 2006 California public opinion poll, 71 percent of those surveyed said they want State engineers to inspect the construction of State highways; only 20 percent found private firms acceptable for the task. David M. Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, said in a recent interview: "There's something civil servants have that the private sector doesn't, and that is the duty of loyalty to the greater good—the duty of loyalty to the collective best interest of all rather than the interest of a few. Companies have duties of loyalty to their shareholders, not to the country."

HONORING THE TOWN OF SARALAND, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the town of Saraland, Alabama, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Saraland was founded in 1957. Don Diago Alvarez first acquired the land through a Spanish land grant. His descendants later named the community Alvarez Station. In the 1800s, land squatters relocated to the area and began purchasing property. The Cleveland family moved to the area and renamed the town Cleveland Station. However, the name by which we now know this historic town was given by the retired minister, C.J. Dewitt, who reportedly named it after his beloved wife, Sara.

The industrial and population boom in neighboring Mobile brought the northward expansion into Saraland during the 1940s and 50s. When Saraland was incorporated in 1957, it had a reported 125 residents. The 1960s U.S. Census reported a growing town at nearly 5,000. By 1980, that number had risen to nearly 10,000, and today, Saraland is home to over 12,000 residents with the promise of continued growth.

Many prominent businesses have a presence in Saraland including Marshall Biscuits,

Mitchell Container, G. A. West & Co., and J&J Furniture. Saraland is also home to the University of Mobile. Set in the woods, the university's 1,500 students distinguish themselves through academics and a strong religious tradition.

Madam Speaker, the residents of Saraland, Alabama, have firmly rooted themselves in their proud history, but they also keep an optimistic and careful eye on the road ahead. The vision shown by their leaders over the past 50 years has led to the creation of a stable community, one of the anchors for all of Mobile County. I have no doubt that the consistent leadership and inspired vision of today's residents will lead to even greater successes in the coming years.

It is my hope the town of Saraland continues its story of success for another 50 years, and it is my distinct pleasure to represent this fine community in the United States House of Representatives.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CITY OF YERINGTON CENTENNIAL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Yerington Centennial Celebration.

Yerington is truly a unique city that is rich in history. Situated along the banks of the Walker River, the green fields and tree lined highways of Mason Valley are surrounded by picturesque mountains full of history such as ghost towns and mining camps. On March 14, 1907, Governor John Sparks signed into law a bill that incorporated Yerington as a city. The origins of Yerington can be traced back to the 1850s when N.H.A. "Hock" Mason settled in the valley that now bears his name and in 1871, the Mason Valley Post Office was established in the town near the Walker River.

The town was referred to by many as "Pizen Switch," which folklore traces to the inferior grade of whiskey sold in a local saloon that was constructed of willow branches, and in 1879, the town was rechristened "Greenfield." In 1880, Henry Marvin Yerington, the General Superintendent of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, founded the Carson and Colorado Railroad that soon extended through Dayton, Fort Churchill, Wabuska in Northern Mason Valley. By 1894, the residents officially changed the names of the town and its post office to Yerington, in an unsuccessful effort to flatter Henry Yerington so that he would extend his rail line south through the town named after him. In 1911, the county seat of Lyon County was moved from Dayton to the thriving and growing City of Yerington.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Centennial Celebrations of the City of Yerington. The City of Yerington truly has a colorful and rich history that deserves recognition and I commend the efforts of Mayor Douglas Homestead, and City Council members Bill Vicencio, Rita Evasovic, Richard Faber and George Dini in facilitating this Centennial Celebration.

HONORING AHMET ERTEGUN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who, without exaggeration, was called "the greatest record man of all time" and who with great character and spirit made indelible contributions to the worldwide promotion of African-American music and American popular culture while also standing for racial equality and social justice.

Unfortunately, we lost Ahmet Ertegun, the founder of Atlantic Records and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in 2006. His legacy will live on in the music he promoted, and the legendary careers—from Ray Charles to the Rolling Stones—he helped create and develop over 60 years.

PBS recently ran a documentary titled "Atlantic Records: The House that Ahmet Built." This 2-hour sensation chronicled the life of Ertegun from his birth in 1923 through his childhood, career, and success. We witnessed America change through his eyes, and the emergence of African-American music into popular culture with his guidance.

I urge all Members of Congress to watch this documentary if they have not had the opportunity to do so. The son of the first Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, Ertegun, through music and entertainment, was instrumental in breaking down the racial barriers that so divided our country during the years of Jim Crow laws and segregation. In the 1940s at a time when Washington was segregated, he frequented African-American nightclubs and realized that "all popular music stems from black music, be it jazz or rock n' roll or rap." Ertegun is often credited for coining the phrase, "jazz is America's music."

At every turn, Ertegun and his brother, Nesuhi, challenged the prevailing racial bigotry, stereotypes and discrimination. Despite being initially denied by the National Press Club and the segregation policies of the day, they organized the first integrated jazz concert before a white and black audience in Washington, DC at the Jewish Community Center in the 1940s. They even brought hostility to themselves in hosting the now famous integrated jazz sessions at their home of the Turkish embassy residence, again, challenging the practice of segregation. While not directly following in his father's footsteps with a diplomatic career, he practiced a true diplomacy in bringing people together.

Ertegun's love of American black music led him to found Atlantic Records in 1947. For nearly five decades, Ertegun wrote and produced music, defined careers and changed the lives of household names such as Ruth Brown, Big Joe Turner, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, and others and brought African American music and soul into the American mainstream.

It was a young Turk who prominently recognized, promoted and honored the contributions of black America in the entertainment and recording industries. In a February 2005 interview in *Slate Magazine*, Ertegun was asked what he considered to be his legacy. His answer: "I'd be happy if people said that I did a little bit to raise the dignity and recognition of the greatness of African-American music."

Ertegun also became a trustee of several charitable organizations, including the Rhythm & Blues Foundation, which sought to ensure that singers and artists received their share of royalties that they had for so long been denied. As mentioned earlier, he was a contributing founder of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, whose main exhibition hall now bears his name.

Ahmet Ertegun's leadership is reflected in the inspirational careers of other Turkish Americans who continue the legacy of contributing to what makes America great. I hope that my colleagues, this great institution and the American people will join me in paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American icon and a proud and talented Turk.

TRIBUTE TO KEIL HILEMAN, THE
D.A.R.'S OUTSTANDING TEACHER
OF AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Keil Hileman of DeSoto, KS, who in April was awarded the national Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] Outstanding Teacher of American History award. This award honors notable, full-time teachers of American history and related fields, such as social studies, government, and citizenship education. The teacher must have the ability to foster the spirit of American patriotism and loyal support of the United States and constitutional government and demonstrate the ability to relate the subject to modern life and events.

Sponsored by the Prairie Rose Chapter of the DAR, which is located in Overland Park, KS, in the Third Congressional District, Mr. Hileman was top winner in the state of Kansas and then selected for the national tribute from state winners from across the Nation and overseas. On June 30, 2007, Mr. Hileman will receive his award at DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall.

Mr. Hileman, who teaches at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee, Kansas, says his passion is to make history a part of the students' quality world. His success centers on his "classroom museum," filled with a potpourri of 20,000 artifacts he uses to teach events in American history. He began his museum by bringing heirlooms from his own collection to his class, and it has grown to thousands of items from contributions by families of students and community members. The historical artifacts, ranging from the ordinary but old to the extraordinary and rare, are all available for close examination by the students.

Among his many honors, Mr. Hileman was: the 2004 Kansas Teacher of the Year; the first Kansan to win the Horace Mann-National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, in 2004; and was one of four finalists for The National Teacher of the Year award. He has taught at the middle school level for 14 years in the DeSoto Unified School District, where his coursework includes an elective class using his artifacts collection called "Museum Connections." Additionally, he teaches a hands-on archaeology course at

Johnson County Community College, a classroom museum course for teachers at MidAmerica Nazarene University and a graduate/undergraduate, artifact-supported history class at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Keil Hileman's classroom credo is: "explore your world, empower yourself and those around you, excel in everything you do!" I am proud to represent this outstanding educator and caring individual in the United States Congress. I join with the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in commending Mr. Hileman for this truly well-deserved honor and I hope that his dedication to educating young people serves as an inspiration for others to enter the teaching profession.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces who have fallen in the line of duty, protecting our country and serving this nation honorably. On Monday, I will have the high honor of speaking at Golden Gate National Cemetery where I will look out across the many rows of snow white headstones at the generations of brave men and women lost in service to our country.

Memorial Day is a somber day of reflection, but it is also a day to celebrate the beliefs and ideals of America; not only do we remember those who embodied these ideals, but we must celebrate their lives and their willingness to sacrifice so that we might be here today.

On Memorial Day sixty-five years ago, the future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Earl Warren, stood near the site that I will stand inaugurating this important memorial. These 161 acres are hallowed grounds that must be treated with the highest respect. For those of us who live and work in the Bay Area, a drive down the 280 is a constant reminder of how many of our family members, friends, and neighbors have had to sacrifice their lives for our freedom.

Madam Speaker, the President bestows, in the name of Congress, the highest honor a member of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard can receive for valiant actions in the line of duty. Fifteen people at Golden Gate National Cemetery have received the Medal of Honor and are interred with over 130,000 other courageous men and women of the Armed Forces.

California has borne a large share of the burden that the Armed Forces have undertaken. Over two million veterans live in California and we have lost almost four hundred men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. Right now there are over 20,000 Californians in these war zones, so on behalf of these brave soldiers I am committed to the view that Congress' first order of business must be to ensure that those who are in the line of fire are the most prepared and well-equipped. It is my solemn oath that none of the men and women in harm's way should lie here before it is their time.

Madam Speaker, I will go to the podium with mixed feelings; it is a high honor to be

able to go to Golden Gate National Cemetery on Memorial Day and share my thoughts with many veterans from around the Bay Area. It is impossible to express how important the sacrifices made by these men and women are to this country. One thing is certain: America would not be the great country it is without them.

This Memorial Day I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all members of the Armed Forces, especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT
KENNETH N. MACK, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS RE-
SERVE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

MSgt Kenneth N. Mack was a proud United States Marine and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on May 5, 2007, during combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Assigned to the Second Marine Expeditionary Force, Master Sergeant Mack's 25 years of faithful service as a Marine are an inspiration to all Americans, particularly the men he so ably led.

Kenneth Mack leaves behind his wife, Peggy, mother, Mahalia, and his daughter and son.

Our community and Nation honor Kenneth Mack's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

MSgt Kenneth N. Mack will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family, the Marines who were entrusted to his care and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

CONGRATULATING ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL GIRLS' GOLF
TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the St. Paul's Episcopal School girls' golf team on winning the 2007 state championship.

In 1947, William S. Mann founded St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile, Alabama. St. Paul's began with a class of twenty kindergartners, and has grown to currently enroll 1,613 students, making St. Paul's the largest Episcopal school in North America.

Coach Beverly Davis led the varsity girls' golf team to their first state championship at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National Course in Opelika. This most recent honor brings the number of state championships won by St. Paul's teams to eight this year. The team placed fourth last year and second two

years ago. Like Coach Davis, I am so proud of her players, and I know they worked hard for this great honor.

The Lady Saints proved they are champions in their victory at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National Course in Opelika. I congratulate the Lady Saints: sophomore Virginia Bedwell, sophomore Vivian Dudley, sophomore Marissa Gacek, and freshman Laura Dudley.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Paul's girls' golf team on a great season and state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD T. JONES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard T. Jones, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Richard enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944. He was 17 years old when he served in the D-Day invasion as Seaman First Class. In the early morning of June 6, 1944, his LST 357 landed at Omaha Beach, unloading amphibious Ducks and small boats loaded with infantry soldiers. His LST was under fire from German 88 mm guns, air fire and torpedoes in a bloody battle. The LST that Richard was assigned to also served as a medical transport to return the wounded back to England. Among Richard's medals are the American Theatre Victory Medal World War II, European African Middle Eastern Medal with 1 Star and Letter of Commendation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Richard T. Jones for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Richard T. Jones for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING JAMES J. KELLY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of James J. Kelly, Ph.D., ACSW, LCSW. Dr.

Kelly is the Provost and Executive Vice President of Menlo College in Atherton, California. He recently retired from the California State University system, having been a professor and Associate Vice President within the Division of Continuing and International Education for California State University, East Bay, CSUEB as well as former Interim Provost. Today Dr. Kelly celebrates his retirement from CSUEB after decades of outstanding service to our educational system, our community and our country.

Dr. Kelly's extensive academic and clinical credentials include a post-doctoral clinical fellowship in Psychiatry at UCLA Sepulveda Veterans Administration; a Ph.D. from Brandeis University; an M.S.S.W. from the University of Tennessee; and a B.S. from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Prior to working at CSUEB, Dr. Kelly was a professor and the Dean of Health and Human Services at Cal State Los Angeles, (CSULA), and a professor and the Director of the Department of Social Work at Cal State Long Beach. While at CSULA, he headed a coalition that brought in \$96 million to CSULA for a collaborative criminalistics laboratory for use by the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and CSULA.

At CSUEB, Dr. Kelly was responsible for eliminating an inherited \$3.7 million estimated debt in the Division of Continuing and International Education, and returning the division to profitability. Also among his outstanding accomplishment at CSUEB was Dr. Kelly's work to establish and oversee the East Bay Small Business Development Center in Oakland California, which he initiated with a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration and in cooperation with San Jose State. Dr. Kelly also established three free-standing training and professional facilities: (1) the CSUEB Oakland Professional Development and Conference Center, (2) the CSULA Center for Child Welfare, and (3) the CSULB Child Welfare Training Center.

Both at CSULA and CSUEB, Dr. Kelly was responsible for overseeing significant faculty hiring, and his work was notable for the high level of diversity, including women and minorities, he brought into both institutions. He was also a pioneer in the use of distance technology, having spearheaded distance education programs from Cal State Long Beach to CSU Humboldt, Channel Islands, Bakersfield, and Chico.

Dr. Kelly has been active for many years in professional and community organizations, and has received numerous accolades for his work. He is the immediate past President of the California Institute of Mental Health, and founding editorial board member of the Journal of Women and Aging. He is also a former consultant to the United Nations. Dr. Kelly has 38 publications, 109 presentations, and has garnered \$40 million in grants, contracts, endowments, and gifts to his credit. In 1987, he was named NASW National Social Worker of the Year.

Dr. Kelly's commitment to the students and faculty of the CSU System, as well as the community at large, has had a positive impact on countless lives.

On this very special day, I join the friends, family and colleagues of Dr. Jim Kelly in thanking and saluting him for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 2264, NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ACT OF 2007 AND H.R. 1252, THE FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, I was pleased to support legislation to crack down on gas price gouging and OPEC state-controlled entities that conspire to limit the supply or fix the price of oil.

Nationwide, families are paying \$3.22 a gallon on average for regular gasoline—more than double the cost when President Bush took office, up 89 cents from the beginning of the year. Last year, families paid \$1,000 more on average for gasoline than in 2001. As we approach Memorial Day and the summer driving season, families in Michigan are paying an average of \$3.47 for gasoline.

The high cost for families come as oil companies continue to prosper. The six largest oil companies announced \$30 billion in profits for the first quarter of 2007. This is on top of the \$125 billion in record profits they made in 2006.

On Tuesday, the House approved H.R. 2264, a bill I introduced, to authorize the Justice Department to take legal action against OPEC state-controlled entities that participate in conspiracies to limit the supply, or fix the price, of oil.

On Wednesday, the House approved The Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act, H.R. 1252, which would give the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate and punish companies that artificially inflate the price of gas. The bill sets criminal penalties for price gouging, and permits states to bring lawsuits against wholesalers or retailers who engage in such practices.

In spite of record oil industry profits in the face of crippling costs for American consumers, President Bush has threatened to veto both pieces of legislation.

In addition to the legislation approved this week, the Democratic Congress has already voted to roll back \$14 billion dollars in taxpayer subsidies for Big Oil companies and reinvest the money in clean, alternative fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Democrats are also developing an Independence Day package to boldly address energy independence and global warming by rapidly expanding the production of clean, alternative fuels and increasing energy efficiency, which will help protect our environment and bring down the cost of fuel for American consumers.

SWEDISH AMBASSADOR GUNNAR LUND'S REMARKS ON THE LEGACY OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call my colleague's attention to the candid, earnest, and eloquent speech of the Swedish

Ambassador to the United States Gunnar Lund which he gave on Tuesday to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. In his presentation my friend Ambassador Lund articulated the courageous acts of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who during the Second World War single-handedly saved tens of thousand of Jews in Budapest from Nazi extermination camps.

The United States has enjoyed a strong relationship with Sweden since the 17th century when Swedish migrants settled on the banks of the Delaware River. Under Ambassador Lund's leadership, the Swedish Embassy has been an active participant in the political and cultural life of Washington, DC., and engaged in many community activities.

Madam Speaker, the remarks of Ambassador Lund provided an extraordinary educational briefing for those who attended this event of the Human Rights Caucus. Ambassador Lund wove an intricate account of how this young humanitarian at the request of the American War Refugee Board went to Hungary at one of the darkest times of mankind. His heroic actions are a powerful message that one person, with the courage to care, can make a difference in the world.

Raoul Wallenberg's legacy must not be forgotten. For this reason, I particularly welcomed his comments stressing the importance of actively educating new generations on Wallenberg's deeds for mankind. I must agree with my friend who describes Wallenberg's disappearance as "one of the saddest and most frustrating unanswered questions in Swedish history". Indeed, this is one of the saddest episodes in world history.

Madam Speaker, Wallenberg's sacrifice is a testament to his belief in every human being's right to live with dignity and still stands out as a shining light. Ambassador Lund brought the message to his young audience the most important lesson Wallenberg taught us: the world depends on individual's willingness to take on responsibility and I am proud to pass along the message to all of my colleagues.

Because Raoul Wallenberg's heroism continues to play a significant role in the U.S. Swedish relations, Madam Speaker, I ask that the speech of my friend, Ambassador Lund, be placed in the RECORD, and I urge all of my colleagues to read it carefully.

THE LEGACY OF RAOUL WALLENBERG: HERO OF THE HOLOCAUST

[Delivered by H.E. Mr Gunnar Lund,
Ambassador of Sweden]

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to you and your

wife, Annette, and to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, for organizing this annual briefing of the life and legacy of my country-man, Raoul Wallenberg. The initiative is yet another proof of your untiring commitment to the improvement of human rights conditions worldwide, well known both in the United States and in Sweden, and beyond.

We sometimes take for granted that Raoul Wallenberg will not and cannot be forgotten. But to keep his legacy alive, we need to actively educate new generations on who he was and what he did. This is such an opportunity. In fact, it is hard to think of a better way to remember Raoul Wallenberg than to share a moment like this with somebody like you, Congressman Lantos. You have a personal experience from what happened in Budapest in 1944.

I leave it to my co-speakers to dwell on the details of Raoul Wallenberg's life and deeds. But I would like to point out that through his actions, he has had a significant influence on the relations between the United States and Sweden.

Wallenberg himself arrived in this country in 1931. He was 19 years old and he came here to study architecture at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He thereby broke with his family's expectations that he would go into banking. He stayed in the United States for four years, returning home in 1935 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

His next encounter with the United States, nine years later, was of a more indirect nature, but it would determine his life.

The year was 1944 and Europe was burning. Hungary had been occupied by the Nazis. As a neutral country, Sweden had already started to issue temporary passports to Jews in Budapest in order to save them from deportation and death. At the same time, the United States had established the War Refugee Board, whose task was to save Jews from Nazi persecution. The Board summoned a meeting in Stockholm in order to identify an individual who could travel to Budapest to initiate a major rescue action from the Swedish Legation. Wallenberg's name was presented, and he accepted to take on the risky mission. He was 32 years old and already an established businessman in Stockholm.

The rest is history. By issuing thousands of protective passports, employing hundreds of persons and hiring over thirty buildings in Budapest which he declared to be Swedish territory and where Jews could seek shelter, Wallenberg saved thousands of lives, perhaps as many as 100,000. He did not use traditional diplomacy, but everything from bribery to threats of blackmail. He took great personal risks. Even when we peel off some of the myths surrounding his person, Wallenberg remains a remarkable symbol of personal

courage in the fight against the atrocities of the Second World War.

In 1945 Wallenberg was captured by Soviet troops and disappeared. To this day, we don't know what happened to him. His disappearance remains one of the saddest and most frustrating unanswered questions in Swedish history. In hindsight, we have reasons to be critical of our own role in the search for clarity about Wallenberg's fate: Could more have been done by the Swedish Government to demand answers from the Soviet leadership during the years following the disappearance? In 2001, an official commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate the Swedish government's actions in the Wallenberg case, and the title of the report, "A Diplomatic Failure" suggests that the question is justified.

Wallenberg could never be thanked personally for his efforts, but many people around the world, not the least yourself and so many others in the United States, have made great efforts to investigate his fate and carry on his ideals. In 1981, fifty years after he arrived in Ann Arbor, Raoul Wallenberg was declared an honorary citizen in the United States. Streets, squares and schools have been named after him in this country and elsewhere. Not far from where we are now, the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum is located on Raoul Wallenberg Place. In Europe, the Swedish Institute and the Hungarian organization Open Society Archives last month co-sponsored an exhibition in Budapest on Raoul Wallenberg's life and deeds. The exhibition had previously been exhibited in Ukraine, Poland, Bosnia Herzegovina and Romania, and will continue to Russia. Hopefully, initiatives like this can teach new generations in a new Europe the importance of personal courage in the shaping of history.

Raoul Wallenberg believed in every human being's right to life and dignity. And that legacy continues to influence Swedish foreign policy. The Swedish defense of human rights principles includes a strong commitment to equal opportunities for all people, a total abolition of all forms of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, the freedom of thought and expression and the abolition of the death penalty, just to mention a few. This commitment is more needed than ever. Violations of human rights still occur on all continents, around the world. The situations in Darfur, in North Korea, in Iran and in Burma are tragic examples.

Back to Raoul Wallenberg. Perhaps the most important lesson he taught us was that at the end of the day, individual courage does matter. International efforts, no matter how well-meant, still depend on the individual's preparedness to take on responsibility.